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[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, SIXPENCE.]

THE VIENNA CONFERENCES.

DIPLOMACY is splitting straws in the Austrian capital; but, in the meantime, the Sword is doing, or has done, more valid work in the Crimea. Captain Pen is, doubtless, a great Commander; but Captain Sword, in the present circumstances of Europe, is the best and safest General. If this great "Edax Protocolorum" will so manage as to defeat the Russians in a pitched battle before Sebastopol, and capture the town immediately, or very soon afterwards, he will save Captain Pen an infinitude of useless trouble, and clear away a whole wilderness of entanglements from the path of Ambassadors and Ministers Plenipotentiary. But as Captain Sword may require the whole summer to work out his plans, and as the diplomatists assembled at Vienna only require about fifteen days to come to a conclusion on one or two very great and essential points, diplomacy will share with war the attention of Europe, and attract to Vienna, for a short time, an interest only second to that which centres around Sebastopol and Balaklava.

If we could suppose that the new Czar would throw himself upon the mercy of Europe, and endeavour to make peace, as John Bright or Joseph Sturge would make it—*à tout prix*—even at the price of national honour—we might not unreasonably expect that the temporary pacification of the world would flow from the exertions of the diplomatists of Vienna; and that we should

forthwith enter upon the enjoyment of halcyon days. But, as we cannot suppose anything of the kind—for we have no right to imagine that Alexander II. is such a madman as to inaugurate his reign by an unconditional surrender, which would degrade both him and the nation in the eyes of his subjects, and probably lead to the loss of his crown and his life—we have only to inquire whether the terms to which he may be willing to accede will be such as to satisfy not only Turkey—the party mainly interested—but England, France, and Austria. He has already yielded the famous Four Points, and the general interpretation put upon them by the Allies; but there remain two grand points flowing out of one of them—the limitation of Russian power in the Black Sea, and the existence of Sebastopol as a military and naval position. The Czar cannot, we think, yield on these two points, unless upon compulsion. If the Allies should be idiotic enough to forego them, we shall have peace—peace which will hugely please the Quakers and some of the ex-members of the *ci-devant* Anti Corn-Law League, and which will last as long as it shall suit the purposes of Russia to keep it, but not a moment longer. Such a peace will be at the mercy of other Powers than Russia to undermine; for if, by any unfortunate mischance, the alliance between Great Britain and France should be weakened in years to come, or, worse still, converted into hostility, the Czar, whosoever he might happen to be, would seize his opportunity,

emboldened to dare and do by the too easy terms on which he had been permitted to escape the penalty of his last transgression. A peace on the basis of the Four Points alone, without the destruction of Sebastopol, and the limitation of Russian power in the Black Sea, might last three years, or ten years, or even twenty years; but inevitably a war with Russia, on the old pretext or provocation, would sooner or later ensue. Thus, the work, neglected or postponed at the present time, would have to be done over again, at greater cost and with augmented misery.

No doubt a peace for twenty years would be, *per se*, a very good thing; and to attain it, the Potentates of Europe might well make a large sacrifice of personal feeling. But it is far from certain that a patched-up peace would last for so long a period as twenty, or even for three years. And for a peace dependent upon the caprice of a powerful foe, exasperated by previous humiliations, it would be in the highest degree impolitic and unwise to sheathe the sword. Even if peace should last for a whole generation, we should remember that in the existence of states and empires thirty or forty years are of small account, and that the men of 1855 are paying the heavy penalty of war because their grandfathers in 1787 were too short-sighted to prevent the Czarina Catherine from perpetrating a great wrong against Europe. That wrong, by being unpunished, led to many others—each more mischievous than its predecessor. The work of resistance, which might at first have been easy, be-



RUSSIAN PRISONERS AT PLYMOUTH.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

came more difficult by the lapse of time—like a fire, which, at the right moment, may be extinguished by a bucketful of water, but which ten minutes later may defy all the engines of a great city to subdue it.

Thus, although the Czar may have acceded to the Four Points, it is the duty of the Allies, while accepting those terms as the basis of pacification, to insist upon additional securities—upon tangible “material guarantees” in the shape of money or provinces, that he will not again force the nations to take up arms against him. Austria may possibly refuse to be a party to any further demands, although circumstances favour the supposition that she will support the Allies with fidelity and honour in all that they require; but, whatever may be her policy, France and England, as well as Turkey, having been put to great expense, will neglect their obvious duty, and will betray the interests of their people, if they do not insist not only upon indemnification for the past, but ample security for the future. If the negotiations should break off upon this point, and no other, it may be taken as a proof that Russian diplomacy is not to be trusted—that the conferences at Vienna are a “sham,” as far as the Czar is concerned in them, and that any peace concluded at the present time would prove to be alike unstable and pusillanimous.

For the reason that we detest war so earnestly and so thoroughly, that we would have a peace which should defy the Emperors of Russia or any other Potentate to break it, we trust that Alexander II. will persist in the policy of his race, and that Sword, and not Pen, will settle the question. There was a time when Pen might have been competent to the task, but it has long since passed, and Sword has become the only valid, safe, and reasonable arbiter. After the fall of Sebastopol the work of diplomacy will be simplified, and the reconstruction of the map of Europe will be the task to be accomplished. While Russia is undefeated that question seems too large for the courage and wisdom of diplomacy. But the progress of the war would open the eyes of statesmen to its urgency, and they would see, like many humbler, but better informed and bolder men, that the map of Europe, with which they so much fear to meddle, is in a state so highly unsatisfactory and perilous as to demand revision in the interest of humanity and of civilisation. The reconstitution of Poland as an independent kingdom or republic, the guardianship of the Danube by Austria, and the restoration of Finland and the Crimea to their ancient owners—these are but some of the changes in the map which the circumstances of Europe seem imperatively to call for. France and England can lend their hands to the work in a pure and disinterested spirit. They seek no territory for themselves, and have no desire but for the establishment of truth and justice. If any changes become necessary, in addition to the few which we have thus briefly indicated, it will be the King of Prussia that will bear the blame and the penalty.

THE RUSSIAN PRISONERS AT PLYMOUTH.

A CLUSTER of buildings, situated on the shores of Millbay, Plymouth, first used as a prison during the last French war, and subsequently converted into barracks for Royal Marines and Militia, was, at the close of last autumn, redevoled to its original use; and, in the month of October, was prepared for the reception of several hundreds of prisoners of war, taken at the capture of Bomarsund. Soon after their arrival, Lieutenant H. T. Veitch, R.N., the Governor, effected a classification of them, which at present remains in full force. The establishment is divided by a range of offices into two extensive areas, an upper and a lower; a circumstance that much facilitates the arrangements for a separation of the natives of Russia Proper from those of her great European dependency of Poland—the former occupying what is called the “higher,” and the latter the “lower” prison. The lower edifice is substantially built, three stories in height, and is capable of accommodating many more than its present number of occupants. In one of the wards of the right wing are located fifty-one Polish Jews, whose service in the battalions of the Czar, it may easily be imagined, was completely compulsory; and therefore their situation here, as compared with that they held when numbered in the ranks of the Muscovite army needs but little to be commiserated. A small platform, roughly erected, stands on one side against the wall, and is used by the Jews when at their devotions, in which they are occasionally assisted by a Rabbi. Several other of the wards in this wing are tenanted by 150 Polish Christians, the great majority of them being Roman Catholics, and five Poles, who were captured in one of the Russian traders by H.M.S. *Rosamond*.

The larger of the two prisons is at the head of this open space, and is divided, like the other into two wings, occupied by 500 Russians, including some members of Cossack regiments. Their habiliments are very slightly varied—most of them appearing in great grey coats, baggy trousers, and boots that reach nearly to the knees; a few keep themselves warm with coats made of undressed sheepskin. Such clothing, however, is hardly necessary here; for the wards are well heated with stoves. The prisons are far from crowded. The easternmost ward in the series is set apart for the religious services of the soldiers who are of the persuasion of the Greek Church.

Of the general behaviour of the prisoners there seems to be but little reason to complain. They are apparently as resigned to their fate as men under circumstances of confinement can be expected to be. No unnecessary constraint is imposed upon them; as much liberty of action being afforded them as is consistent with a due maintenance of discipline. The chief object is to keep their minds occupied; and those of them who are inclined to be industrious have facilities afforded them by the Governor; through whose kindness a workshop has been provided, where puzzles, boots, and other things are manufactured, and at times from fifty to one hundred men may be seen at work in this apartment. When the weather is fine the prisoners are allowed, at the discretion of the Governor, to go into the town and country for exercise; on such occasions they are invariably under the charge of a military escort. In the Sketch upon the preceding page, a body of them is represented proceeding through the Octagon, Union-road, Plymouth, on their return from a “general airing.” In the Illustration are also shown portions of the north-east and north-west wings of the prison.

The number of individuals to be daily provided for in the establishment is 746 men, women, and children. The dietary is good and sufficient: tea in the morning and evening, and meat and soup at mid-day, are served out in messes.

STRENGTH OF THE ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.—On the 7th of February the total number of effective non-commissioned officers and men was 26,668, and the sick in Camp and elsewhere numbered 18,243. On the 23rd of February the number of effectives was 26,193, and the sick 18,185. In both instances this was exclusive of officers and of the Ambulance and Mounted Staff Corps. On the 27th of February the strength of the British army (non-commissioned officers and men), inclusive of Marines, Ambulance and Mounted Staff Corps, was 27,067. The actual number of sick was on that day 17,523, of whom 5309 were in Camp, and 12,214 at Scutari, or otherwise absent. The number of horses of the Cavalry and Artillery was, on the 7th, 1974; on the 23rd, 1809; and on the 27th, 1617.

COSSACKS AND TARTARS.—The Cossacks are armed with a short carbine slung behind the back, a pair of pistols attached to their girdle, and a black lance, about eleven feet in length, tipped with iron well sharpened. This weapon is heavy, and difficult to balance; so that when the Cossack is on the gallop, making a foray among the Tartar herds, he places his lance across his saddle so as to ease the weight till he gets close to the object he is about to attack. The lance is a fearful weapon to the poor Tartar herdsmen, endeavouring to save their charge, and the Cossacks pitilessly run them through; but it is not dangerous to bold and skilful horsemen like ours, who easily parry the thrust and cut the lance through with one blow of the sabre, for the wood of the shaft is very slender.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

Last week took place, at the Greek Chapel in the Rue de Berry, a funeral ceremony, commemorative of the death of the Emperor Nicholas. The altar was covered with a cloth of black velvet, bordered with silver; and two masses—the one in Latin, the other in Russian—were performed. The honours of the occasion were done by Madame de Sabach, wife of the Saxon Minister, and daughter of M. de Nesselrode. The Princesse Mathilde, who is related to the family of the Czar by her mother, was present at the ceremony, and the Prince Napoleon was represented by one of his Aides-de-Camp. No funeral discourse was pronounced.

It appears that the Government, taking into consideration the enormous value of the collection of objects to be exposed at the Great Exhibition—a collection which it values at ten millions of francs—a valuation likely to be increased, should reason be found to do so—has contracted an insurance for this sum. It has, besides, assured the Palace itself, with the buildings and accessories, for twelve thousand francs; guaranteed by different companies, and the Pavillon des Beaux Arts, in the Avenue Montaigne, for a million of francs (£40,000). It is said that in this addition—built in consequence of the want of space in the Exhibition itself for the reception of works of art—no less than 13,000 pictures by French artists alone, are to be exhibited. Report gives to M. Ingres twenty-five specimens; to Horade Vernet, forty; and to Théodore Gudin, a hundred and fifty!—all the artists being permitted to send, not only their later productions, but any they have already exhibited elsewhere. Without wishing to cavil at the arrangements of the Committee, we really think that it would be, not only more just to all, but more in the interest of art and artists themselves in France, to limit the pictures accepted to a certain number, and those not previously shown elsewhere. How is it possible to form any judgment on individual merit where the eye of the visitor will be overwhelmed by the thousands and thousands of canvases, subjects, and colours that will thus, all at once, present themselves?

There is a report that the Minister of State proposes to prevent the departure of Mlle. Rachel until after the season of the Exhibition, in order not to deprive the visitors of the satisfaction of beholding the great tragedian.

A trial, the announcement of which has excited much attention, has just been concluded. It is that of M. de Jouvencel, nephew of the late *représentant*, and Madame de Jarsy, for the distribution of seditious writings. The former has been condemned to three years of imprisonment, *par contumace*, being abroad; the latter, a young and highly-distinguished-looking woman—whose appearance on the bench excited no small degree of attention—to six months of the same punishment.

M. Clésinger, the celebrated sculptor, son-in-law of Madame George Sand, is employed on the pedestal of his statue of François I., which is to be placed in the Court of the Louvre. This statue has been ordered by the Emperor himself, who has, moreover, given the artist the subjects of the four bas-reliefs which are to decorate the pedestal; and on one of his first visits to the *atelier*, left with M. Clésinger the sum of 10,000 francs, to defray the first expenses of the work.

The last few weeks have been unusually rich in the production of new works of interest. Among these is “*Histoire des Livres Populaires et de la Littérature du Colportage*,” from the fifteenth century up to the period of the establishment of the commission for the examination of books of the latter description, by M. Charles Nisard, Under-Secretary of the Commission. The work, in two thick volumes, illustrated with the coarse woodcuts of the books cited, forms a most singular and interesting collection, and exposes, in a striking manner, the nature of the literature that for so many succeeding ages formed the only intellectual food of the inhabitants of the country—a nature which, for the most part, is so composed of coarseness, immorality, triviality, and bad taste, that it is painful to reflect on the state of mind and morals that has been at once the cause and effect of the production of such books. Besides this, have appeared, a new edition of the complete works of Heinrich Heine, the Franco-German poet; the first volume of the “*Memoirs of M. Dupin*,” the celebrated Jurisconsult; the second of the “*Mélanges*,” of M. Villenain, the Academician; the “*Légendes Fleuries*,” of the Marquis du Bellay; “*Le Châtiment*,” a most striking novel, founded on the manners of the day, by M. Adolphe Belot; “*Les Récits d’Heir et d’Aujourd’hui*,” by M. de Valbèze; “*Les Mélanges Historiques et Littéraires*,” of M. Prosper Mérimée, who adds to the first quality of being a man of remarkable talent and distinction, the honours of Senator and Academician; and two or three other works of minor interest.

M. Duprez has completed, but not yet published, a new opera on a Scriptural subject, entitled “*Samson*.” It is said to be a very remarkable production.

On Sunday took place at the Salle St. Cecile a concert for the benefit of the labourers out of work. At this concert sung M. Darius, who was one of the singers of the Chapelle Musique of Louis XV.; and who, after a series of brilliant successes in his art, as composer and performer, retired, and now, after a repose of thirty-two years, reappears on this occasion at the age of 102.

One of the principal theatrical successes of the day is “*La Joie de la Maison*,” at the Vaudeville. On Tuesday evening their Majesties honoured the theatre with a visit, and were highly gratified by the performance; which, from its own merits, and the admirable acting of Félix and the pretty *spirituelle* little Mlle. Luther, went off admirably. At the Français, “*Les Jeunes Gens*,” by M. Léon Saye, has been well received.

THE WAR IN ASIA.

Recent accounts from the Caucasus and Georgia show that the Russians are preparing to commence the campaign. General Muraviev, the new Commander of the Transcaucasian army, has just completed a tour of inspection, in which he has visited all the stations of troops. His plans of attack, and the number of troops to be placed at his disposal, were fixed, under the sanction of the Emperor Nicholas, before he left St. Petersburg. Important reinforcements have reached the General since his arrival in Georgia; these were two complete divisions of infantry, numbering nominally 14,000 men each, and accompanied by their artillery, and four regiments of light cavalry. General Bariatinski has undertaken to the Emperor to hold Schamyl and his forces in check. The *Invalides Russes* gives the following report of a collision between the Turks and Russians:—

In consequence of their defeat on the 16th of June, 1854, on the Tcholak, the Turks had been compelled to remain on the defensive along the frontiers of the Gouriél; and, in order to cover their territory, they had formed, near the villages of Leghoy and Okhtchamouy, two entrenched camps, each of which they had occupied with advanced detachments, to the number of 2000 men. In the night between the 30th and 31st of January, the chief of the Gouriél Militia, Second Captain Prince Gouriél, who was on this frontier, attacked the Turkish camps with considerable success. Crossing the frontier near the bridge of Tcholak, he advanced rapidly, and vigorously charged the Turks, who had advanced to meet him. Notwithstanding his numerical superiority, the enemy was overthrown. The militiamen followed close upon his heels, and entered the entrenched camp, which, after expelling the Turks, they destroyed.

In the meantime, the Turkish troops occupying the camp of Okhtchamouy proceeded in all haste to succour Leghoy; but they met in the way a sotnia of the Gouriél Militia detachment belonging to the flag of David Djokéli, and, after a protracted firing of musketry, were put to flight.

As soon as the first shots were fired at Leghoy, the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages of Gouriél, led on by the College Assessor, Matchavariani, Chief of Ozourghéli, and Prince Tavdghérizé, Chief of the Gouriél Canton, came up to take part in the action. Their ready zeal proves the spirit that pervades the inhabitants of the frontiers. The Turks sustained a heavy loss in this affair. On our side we had four men killed and 39 wounded.

THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA.

The announcement that the whole of the batteries which surround Sebastopol, would reopen their fire about a fortnight ago, has not been fulfilled, as the telegraphic report from the Russian commander, dated March 12, states that no change had taken place. The letters received by the last mail, however, which come down to the 6th inst., leave little doubt as to the probability of an early assault taking place. At that date the weather was fine, the thermometer having been, on an average, 45 deg. for several days, and everything seemed highly favourable in the English Camp. Fresh provisions were becoming abundant, and supplies of vegetables were to be had for the sick and scurvy-stricken. The siege works were in a state of completion, and said to have been admirably made. Those on which our troops were then engaged proceed uninterruptedly. A great number of mules and ponies, with a staff of drivers, from all parts of the world, had been collected together, which lightened the toils of the troops and of the Commissariat Department. The mortality among the horses had ceased; and though the oxen and sheep sent to the camps might not find much favour in Smithfield, they were very grateful to those who have had to feed so long on salt junk alone. The sick were nearly all huddled; and even some of the men in those camps which are nearest to Balaclava had been provided with similar comforts and accommodation. Everywhere the reviving influences of the spring, and of a more vigorous and energetic system of management are visible. The policemen walk abroad in the streets of Balaclava. Colonel Harding, the new Commandant, is said to have exhibited great ability in the improvement of the town; and he has means placed at his disposal which his predecessors could not obtain. Lord Raglan is described as being about the camps every day; and Generals Estcourt and Airey are equally active. They all visit Balaclava, inspect the lines, ride along the works, and, by their presence and directions, infuse an amount of energy which will go far to make up, for lost time, if not for lost lives.

The railway was extending its lines by night and by day. A little naval arsenal has grown up at the north side of the harbour, with shears, landing-wharf, and store-houses, and a branch line was to be made from the spot to the trunk to the Camp. In a fortnight more it was hoped the first engine, which was lying all ready for work, with the driver, and all the apparatus for pulling up the trucks beside it, at its allotted station, was expected to be in operation.

The Electric Telegraph has now been established between head-quarters and Kadikoi, and the line will be speedily carried on to Balaclava. The telegraph is worked by four privates of the corps of Sappers and Miners, who have learned the principles on which it is constructed since they went out to the Crimea. The French have had a telegraphic communication by Semaphore established between the camps and naval stations for some time back. The Camp of the Allies is thus being rapidly concentrated, by these means of communicating with each of its parts with rapidity.

A council of war, attended by General Canrobert and General Bosquet, was held at Lord Raglan's head-quarters on the 4th. Nothing certain is known as to what the decision was, but the general belief in the Camp was that it had been resolved to commence active operations. The French were said to be rather uneasy at their position near Inkerman. The Russians were throwing up a new battery on the heights, but the distance was so great that no alarm was created. There was a report that General Pelessier had advanced against the heights occupied by the Russians to the rear of Balaclava, but no particulars were known. On the 6th, one of our batteries, which commands the bottom of the Sebastopol harbour, had compelled a Russian steamer to quit its position in great haste.

The English steam-transport *Imperator*, which had been sent from Malta to take on board 120 of the most robust and best-trained gunners of the garrison of Corfu, arrived there on the 4th, and left on the same day for Balaclava. She had on board, besides the men embarked at Corfu, about 260 artillerymen from the arsenal of Malta.

The following despatch from Lord Raglan appears in a Supplement to the *London Gazette* of Tuesday:—

Before Sebastopol, March 8, 1855

My Lord,—The enemy continued to manifest great activity in preparing the work which I mentioned to your Lordship in my despatch No. 187, and are now bringing up platform timber and guns for the equipment and armament of it.

Vast convoys are daily observed arriving on the north side of the town; and I learn, from information entitled to credit, that the road leading from Simpheropol is covered with waggons laden with provisions and munitions of war.

This morning three British guns, placed in a battery overlooking the Tchernaya, opened upon two small steamers anchored at the head of the harbour, and, after a fire of about an hour, obliged them to take refuge behind a point. One of them appeared to have sustained considerable damage, and is supposed to have been deserted by her crew.

The weather was fine yesterday, and is particularly so to-day, and the country is becoming quite dry.

I have reason to hope that the sick are deriving material benefit from this change.

I have established a convalescent hospital on the heights immediately above Balaclava, near a fine spring of water.

The Inspector-General of Hospitals entertains great expectations of the advantages that will result from placing the huts in so healthy a locality.

Lieutenant-General Pennesfather has resumed the command of the Second Division, and is, I am happy to be able to report, looking remarkably well.

I inclose the return of the casualties to the 4th instant. I have, &c., The Lord Panmure, &c., &c. RAGLAN.

NOMINAL RETURN OF NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND PRIVATES KILLED AND WOUNDED FROM 2ND TO 4TH MARCH, 1855, INCLUSIVE.

KILLED.

21st Foot: Private Patrick Hanrahan.

WOUNDED.

4th Foot: Private Joseph Young, slightly.

30th: Private William Ogden, slightly.

41st: Sergeant Patrick Hurley, severely.

47th: Private Matthew Kennedy, severely.

62nd: Private Thomas Kufe, severely.

88th: Private Nollin Martin, slightly.

J. B. BUCKNALL, ESTCOURT, Adj.-General.

CONTINUED ISOLATION OF PRUSSIA.

Advices from Paris and Berlin show that the Prussian Cabinet remains in its former undecided relations to the Western Courts, avoiding equally a breach and an alliance with France and England. A despatch of M. Manteuffel has appeared, the object of which is to remove the character of a demonstration against France from the recent proceedings of the Prussian Plenipotentiary at the Frankfurt Diet. The Prussian Minister maintains that the resolution adopted by the Diet on the 8th ult., requiring the Germanic States to prepare their armies for war, was not intended as a demonstration against Russia. He declares that Prussia has no intention of turning against France; and contends that Austria has no right to criticise the motives of the resolution of the Diet relative to putting things on a war footing.

The King of Prussia arrived at Dresden on the 16th, as the guest of the King of Saxony, and was expected to remain until the 30th instant. The policy of the two Kings is at this time coincident—both acting for Russian interests, in return for the patronage of the Czar. The Committee of the Second Prussian Chamber, to which the Ministerial bill on the war budget was referred, have made a report, in which the following passage occurs:—

In this solemn moment we have deemed it a duty incumbent upon us to approach the steps of the throne and to express personally to your Royal Majesty our sentiments and convictions. The Prussian nation knows how to appreciate in their fullest extent the blessings of that peace which, under the prudent conduct of its Kings, has for an almost uninterrupted period of forty years scattered its benefits over our country. But, strongly as they appreciate these blessings, the faithful people of your Majesty are also aware that blessings of a yet higher order exist, and if, in the midst of the complications with which we are threatened in the future, the honour, independence, or European position of the country were imperilled, the whole Prussian nation would range itself with entire devotion, with its traditional and unshakable loyalty, with its blood and its wealth, on your Royal Majesty's side, and challenge all the chances of destiny. In placing at the foot of the throne the assurances of our unshakable fidelity and boundless devotion, we have to fulfil another duty equally sacred. We cannot omit bearing testimony to the anxiety with which your Majesty's faithful people have observed for the last ten months the proceedings of the Royal Government in the present great European quarrel. With pain they have seen Prussia retire from the community of great Powers represented last year in the Conference of Vienna—by that act renouncing the most efficacious means of aiding, by its firm and unequivocal attitude, the prompt attainment of the end ardently desired by the entire country—a peace offering lasting guarantees against a renewal of the perturbations to which legal order has been subjected, in a manner conformable alike to the dignity, the interests, and the European position of Prussia, as well as the declarations made at the commencement of that year by the Government of your Majesty as to the future direction of its policy.

We know how to appreciate to their full extent the difficulties of the pre-

sent situation; but, in presence of this anxiety, we are bound to express the respectful conviction that, whatever may happen, we see the most essential and indispensable guarantee for Prussia's future weal in a firm and consistent policy.

EUPATORIA.—THE RUSSIAN ARMY.

Positive orders have been received by the Russian Generals to take Eupatoria at all hazards. A letter in the *Independence Belge* (a journal generally well informed) states that, for the purposes of the siege of Eupatoria, large masses of men are to be marched down from Perekop and Bagtcheserai. On their side, the Turks are neglecting nothing which can put their fortifications in the best possible state of defence. English, French, and Turkish vessels are posted on either side of the town, in order to protect the flank. The cavalry is the only arm of the service in which the Turks are deficient. By the last advices the land and sea forces at Eupatoria amounted to about 50,000 men; and it was considered that their destination was not only to defend that place, but to execute in the spring the plan of Marshal St. Arnaud, and to operate against the fortifications of the north of Sebastopol, whilst the Allies would attack the south.

Speaking of the condition of the Russian armies in the Crimea, the *Militaire Zeitung* says that Bagtcheserai now resembles an enormous lazaretto. Thousands and thousands of sick and wounded soldiers are quartered in the town. The grand highway from Perekop to Bagtcheserai is covered with ammunition waggons on their way to Sebastopol. The number of Russian troops in the Peninsula is calculated at 170,000 men.

THE VIENNA CONFERENCES.

The second Conference began at one o'clock on Saturday last, but the second of the four bases of peace was not brought forward, although the sitting lasted full three hours. A protocol, containing an account of what had occurred on the 15th, had been drawn up by Baron von Meyensbug, the Secretary to the Conference, and it is supposed the nine Plenipotentiaries were occupied during the whole sitting of the 17th in revising it. It is said that the political situation of the Principalities was touched on in a general way; but there is no reason to believe that any details will be entered into until all the Four Points, with the interpretation given to them by the Allies on the 28th of December, have been formally accepted by Russia. The Vienna papers are silent as the grave on the subject of the Conferences; and the Vienna politicians are so entirely ignorant of what is passing that they are literally necessitated to follow their example. The prevailing rumour set afloat by the Russian party was, that a pacific feeling prevails in the British Cabinet, but that France positively refuses to make certain concessions, which are counselled by Austria.

A letter from Vienna, in the *Journal de Francfort*, sums up the almost inevitable probabilities of the present political situation in these words:—"No treaty between Prussia and the Western Powers; no pacific result from the Vienna Conferences."

AMERICA.

The steam-ship *Baltic*, which left New York on the 7th inst., arrived at Liverpool on Sunday. The advices received by her are unsatisfactory, since they announce the defeat in the Senate of the bill for a general reduction of 20 per cent on the duties of foreign goods. From the manner in which the measure, in the first instance, was passed by the House of Representatives, and the feeling with which it was received by the country, there is reason to believe, however, that the question cannot be long delayed, and that the victory of the Protectionists will be followed, as was the case in England with the Corn-laws, by their being ultimately forced to submit to a broader scheme than that which they have now rejected. The session of Congress had terminated. Among its measures connected with finance and commerce has been one appropriating \$1,550,000 for persons having claims on the revenues of Texas previous to the annexation of that State; one for the better management of passenger-ships; one for granting a line of way 200 feet in width to a private company for a telegraph from the Mississippi to the Pacific, which will enable a perfect communication to be established between New York and California; and one for altering the rates of postage, which in future are to be 3c. (1½d.) under 3000 miles, and 5c. (2½d.) for any distance beyond. The bill for continuing the subsidy to the Collins' steamers had likewise passed with some modifications.

The *New York Times* publishes the correspondence at the recent Ostend secret conference of American Ministers Plenipotentiary in Europe. It has exclusive reference to the acquisition of the Island of Cuba. The question is considered in all its bearings: the price suggested—the splendour of the acquisition to the United States treated of—the uses to be made of the money by Spain enlarged upon—the early necessity for disposing of the island, and the importance of arresting agitation referred to; and, finally, the forcible means by which the glittering prize is to become American, if a sale be refused by Spain, boldly avowed.

By an arrival at New Orleans we have later news from the Rio Grande. There were Fillbuster enterprises against Mexico, and it was reported that parties at Brownsville and Monterey had raised a large sum of money to fit out an expedition under the command of Caravajal.

Later advices from Honduras mention the prevalence of rumours of Fillbuster expeditions from the United States for the invasion of the Mosquito country, and of the design of General Carrera to subdue and annex the State of Honduras to Guatemala.

Another demonstration on Greytown was also apprehended. The report had created an unusual excitement among the Hondurans.

The Washington correspondent of the *New York Herald* states that the President had received a friendly autograph letter from the late Emperor of Russia, communicating intelligence received from his secret agents of an organisation against the United States by England and France. At the municipal elections the "Know-Nothings" had been the most successful.

INDIA AND CHINA.

The Overland Mail has arrived with dates from Calcutta, Feb. 10; Bombay, Feb. 17; Canton, Jan. 21; Hong-Kong, Jan. 22; Shanghai, Jan. 16.

Perfect tranquillity reigns throughout India, and there is every prospect of its long continuing to do so. Some time since it was stated that Tagshund, in the Kokan, had been occupied by the Russians; whereas we are now assured that Tagshund has not been occupied by them, and that no Russians are within two hundred miles of the place. A force has certainly arrived within some days' march of Khiva, but no Russian agent has been within reach of that town. The Shah of Persia is unremitting in his endeavours to effect an alliance with Dost Mahomed. The latter some time since sent one of his courtiers on a secret political mission to Persia; he lately returned to Cabul with costly presents from the Shah to the Dost, and a gracious and flattering letter, in which, among other things, the Ameer promises to restore all the territory wrested from Cabul by Persia.

Our negotiation with Dost Mahomed progresses favourably. The Governor-General did not think fit to send his reply to Cabul by any European officer, but entrusted it to a native of Afghanistan who had performed distinguished services for us under Major Edwardes. He was received with the utmost distinction by the Ameer, and conducted to the Durbar, where the letter excited the most lively satisfaction. Dost Mahomed is anxious to form an alliance offensive and defensive with us, and thus to obtain the benefit of our influence and prestige against the machinations of Russia and Persia. He has exhibited the highest confidence in us, by deputing the son whom he has selected for his successor to Peshawar to negotiate the treaty. He asks that we shall respond to this expression of good feeling by directing the Chief Commissioner, Mr. John Lawrence, the first authority in the Punjab, to take charge of the negotiations which have hitherto been conducted through the agency of Major Edwardes. The Governor-General has cheerfully complied with this request, and Mr. Lawrence will immediately repair to Peshawar.

The latest advices from Burmah are to the 23rd ult. Orders have been issued by the Commissioner for two vessels to be in readiness in June next to proceed to Ava, whither the Ambassadors have already gone. They were so hard pressed for money at Rangoon, previous to their return to Ava, that one of them was necessitated to sell a handsome gold watch, presented to him by the Governor-General, for 120 rupees—about a fourth of its value. The Oude territories continue to be distracted by internal feuds. The state of affairs all over this country is grave and menacing. Several engagements have taken place, in one of which the enemy lost 60 killed, and the Government troops only 12. At the capital Colonel Outram was winning golden opinions—the King and people both feeling satisfied with, and reposing confidence in, the Resident's sound and impartial judgment.

The principal item of Chinese intelligence has been received from Shanghai, whence we have advices to the 16th Jan.

The French force stormed the city on the 6th Jan., but were compelled to retire, with the severe loss of two officers and thirteen men killed, and four officers and thirty-three men wounded. The officers killed were—Lieutenant Durrin, of the frigate *Jeanne d'Arc*, and Ensign Petit, of the steamer *Colbert*. On the morning of the 6th a breach was effected by a party of 200 men landed within the French wall, the *Jeanne d'Arc* and the *Colbert* cannonading the city at the same time. Two divisions at once succeeded in mounting the breach without accident; but on the

wall they were exposed to a severe fire from the houses, which caused the heavy loss. A party pushed on to gain possession of the north gate, upon which they placed the French flag; but subsequently great confusion ensued from a body of Imperialists entering the breach and attempting to scale the walls. The French party had to retire, and regained the breach, when a recall was sounded. Nothing has since been done, although it was expected that Admiral La Guerre would not give up his intentions against the place in consequence of this disaster. The English and American forces took no part, considering that it would interfere with the neutrality that was agreed to.

At Canton the passive state of the rebels had temporarily restored confidence to the inhabitants; and this, coupled with some slight success in the neighbourhood of Fatsan, had made the authorities more active. The river and its approaches were still strictly guarded by the insurgents, and it was only by aid of foreign steamers that native vessels could carry on any communication with the city.

A Consular notification had been issued at Canton, stating that all boats laden with British property would be respected, and that the least interference with them would be treated by the naval officers as an act of piracy. The Bogue Forts were said to be in possession of the rebels, and this would afford facilities for a severer blockade than existed.

At Foo-chow the ground question was still creating much trouble, and there was great unwillingness on the part of the Chinese authorities to arrange it.

Her Majesty's brig *Bittern* had returned to Amoy, after succeeding in taking two of a large fleet of piratical junks—the others escaping in a fog. Six of the *Bittern's* men were wounded.

TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE AT BRISTOL.—TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF AN IRON BRIDGE.

On Tuesday morning at about ten o'clock, the inhabitants of Bristol were electrified by the startling intelligence that the great iron bridge leading from Bath-parade to the London road, had been completely carried away through a collision with a steam-boat, and that a number of persons had



THE HIGHWAY BRIDGE AT BRISTOL.

been precipitated into the river and drowned. The intelligence spread like wildfire throughout the city, and within half an hour of the occurrence of the accident there could not have been less than 10,000 persons attracted to the spot. At the time when the tidal river of Bristol was converted into a floating harbour, a new course for the Avon was cut from the Hotwells, and this course directly crossing the high road to London and Exeter and the west of England, two bridges had to be constructed sufficiently capacious for the traffic. The one in question, which was called Hillsbridge, connects the city at a point near the termini of the Great Western, Midland, and Bristol and Exeter Railways with the main roads to London and Wells. It was a cast-iron bridge, made by the Coalbrook Dale Iron Works Company; was of 160 feet span, and comprised a single arch, with

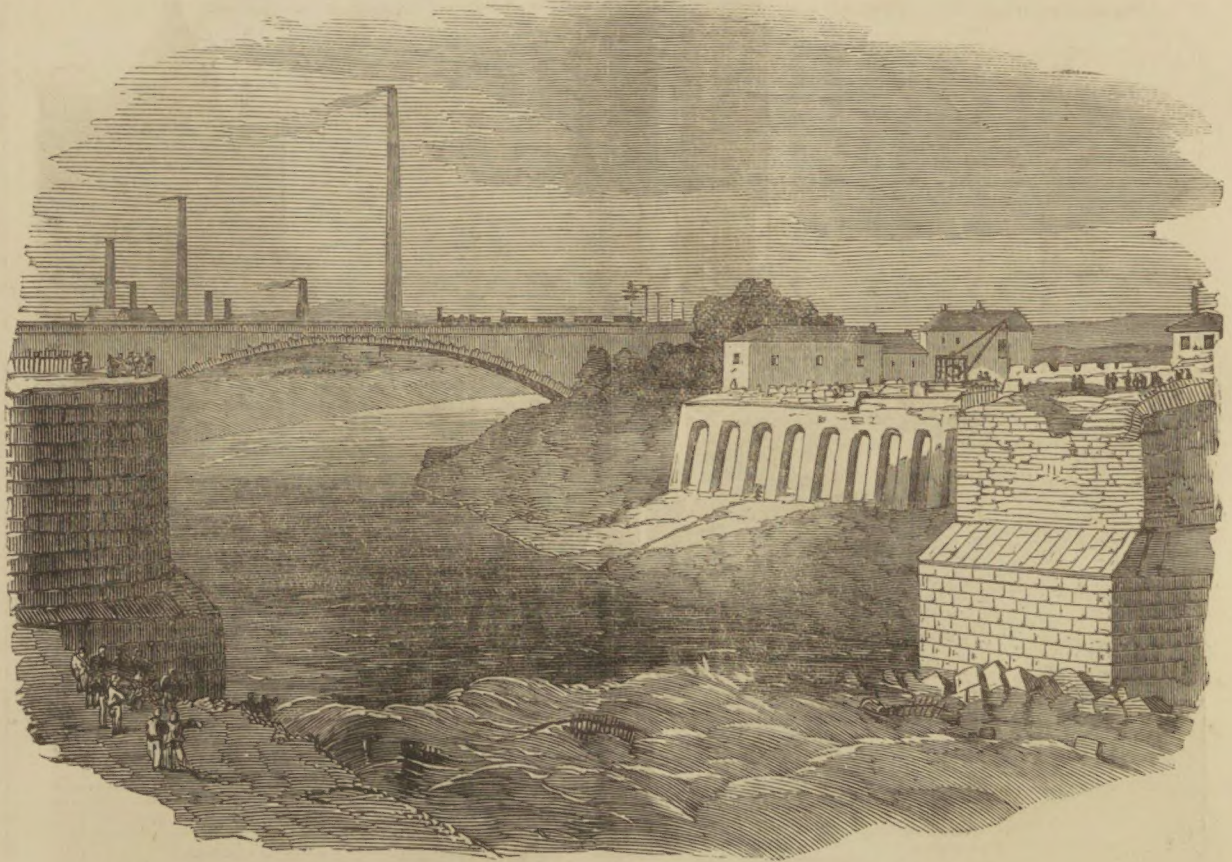
six cast-iron ribs, trussed by iron girders, tied and pinned, and supported by cast-iron stanchions. It occupied in its erection from 1805 to 1809; and it is worthy of notice that, in 1808, owing to some defects in the stone-work upon which it rested, it fell, and either killed or severely injured thirty-two persons. The present accident happened as follows:—A screw-propeller, called the *John*, having an engine of six-horse power, had delivered her cargo of 180 tons of coke, and was descending the river on her return voyage, when she came in contact with the iron framework of the bridge, which rests on side piers. The force of the collision was so great that, notwithstanding the power of a very strong ebb tide, the steamer rebounded eight or ten feet, and the bridge immediately fell with a tremendous crash, carrying with it everything that happened to be upon it at the time of the occurrence. Of the extent to which life was sacrificed it is impossible as yet to speak with accuracy. Three or four persons swam to the banks, and were got out alive; but it is said that a woman with a child in her arms, and two ladies, who were seen struggling in the water, are missing, as also a little girl, who was seen close to the bridge, and who, it is believed, was upon it. Two carts were thrown in by the fall, and one or two of the horses drowned. Mr. Alderman Plummer had a narrow escape, as had also two gentlemen who were walking with him, and a gentleman in a horse and gig, who was within a yard of the bridge at the time of its fall. The fact of some hats having been seen floating down with the ebb tide induces fears that more persons than are known of must have fallen victims to the accident; and it is thought probable that some bodies will be found among the heavy debris of the ironwork. The steam barge was very much injured at the bows, and floated down the river to the second iron bridge, leading to Bedminster, where she ran with great force towards the pier on the Bristol shore, but happily grounded on a shelving rock.

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.—A General Court of the Governors of this magnificent foundation was held on Tuesday, at twelve o'clock, for the following objects:—1. To consider the report of a Committee of Almoners, recommending that 150 presentations for the admission of children be issued by next Easter to the Governors in turn. 2. To receive the report of the Select Committee appointed on the 19th of last December, to inquire what changes are desirable in the constitution, powers, and duties, of the Committee of Almoners. 3. To receive a report from a Committee of Almoners with a view to the improvement of the discipline and education of the children in London. And, lastly, that, at all future meetings of the Court, reporters be admitted. His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, as President, occupied the chair; and the proceedings were conducted with closed doors, there being about 100 governors present. After a discussion—in the course of which it was urged that the number of children already in the school was more than could be properly educated—the recommendation that 150 new presentations be issued was agreed to. The report of the Select Committee, recommending the entire reconstitution of the Committee of Almoners, and the dissolution of the present Committee, was then received, and ordered to be printed, and an arrangement came to that it should be considered at a special meeting hereafter to be convened. Archdeacon Hale read, by permission, a report signed by himself and the treasurers, objecting to the views of the Select Committee; which report was also ordered to be printed and circulated. The Almoners' report—recommending a censor, independent of the Head Master, to take charge of the boys out of school—was, after much discussion, ordered to be received, and referred back to the Committee for reconsideration.

A newspaper in Chinese and English was started at San Francisco on the 1st of January last. It is called the *Oriental*; or, *Tung-Ngai-San-Luk*. It is published under the auspices of an English Missionary Society, for the purpose of converting the Chinese in California to Christianity. Its Chinese editor is one Lee-Kan, converted to our faith at Hong-Kong.

A solemn service for the Emperor Nicholas was celebrated on Sunday in the Greek church in the Rue de Berry. Prince Jerome Napoleon, on account of the ties of relationship which unite him to the Imperial family of Russia, caused himself to be represented at the ceremony by two of his Aides-de-Camp. The Princess Mathilde was present.

The Madras Government is about to establish a class of assistant civil engineers for employment on the public works in the provinces, open to all qualified, whether European or native; the salaries being fixed from 400 to 600 rupees a month, while the highest species of engineering accomplishments do not seem to be insisted on.



REMAINS OF THE HIGHWAY BRIDGE AT BRISTOL, AFTER THE CATASTROPHE.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, MARGARET-STREET.

MANY of our readers may have been struck, while passing along Oxford-street or Regent-street, with the appearance of a tall silvery-grey spire, rising from a lofty red brick tower with long belfry windows, above the monotonous mass of buildings to the north of the former, and to the east of the latter street. This is the spire of the still unfinished Church of All Saints, Margaret-street, of which we present our readers with an exterior view. The Church in question was undertaken several years since by voluntary subscriptions, to serve as a "model church" in its architectural arrangements and decorations, as well as in the future performance of Divine service; the first stone having, after long delays, been laid upon All Saints Day, 1850. The conduct of the work was undertaken, on his own responsibility, by A. J. Beresford Hope, Esq.; and that gentleman has been enabled to carry out the scheme up to the present time upon a very limited number of subscriptions—one of which is, however, stated to have been of the princely extent of £30,000 from a benefactor who requested, on giving it, to remain anonymous. Mr. Beresford Hope was fortunate enough to secure the services of that eminent architect, W. Butterfield, Esq., who has fully carried out—nay, exceeded—in this remarkable Church, the high reputation which he attained very early in life in St. Augustine's College, Canterbury, as an artist of singularly bold and original conceptions, and one who thoroughly realised the dignity of architectural science.

The plan comprised a residence for the clergy and schools, besides the Church itself; and for these various purposes a lot of ground measuring only 110 feet from east to west (the line of the street), and 100 from north

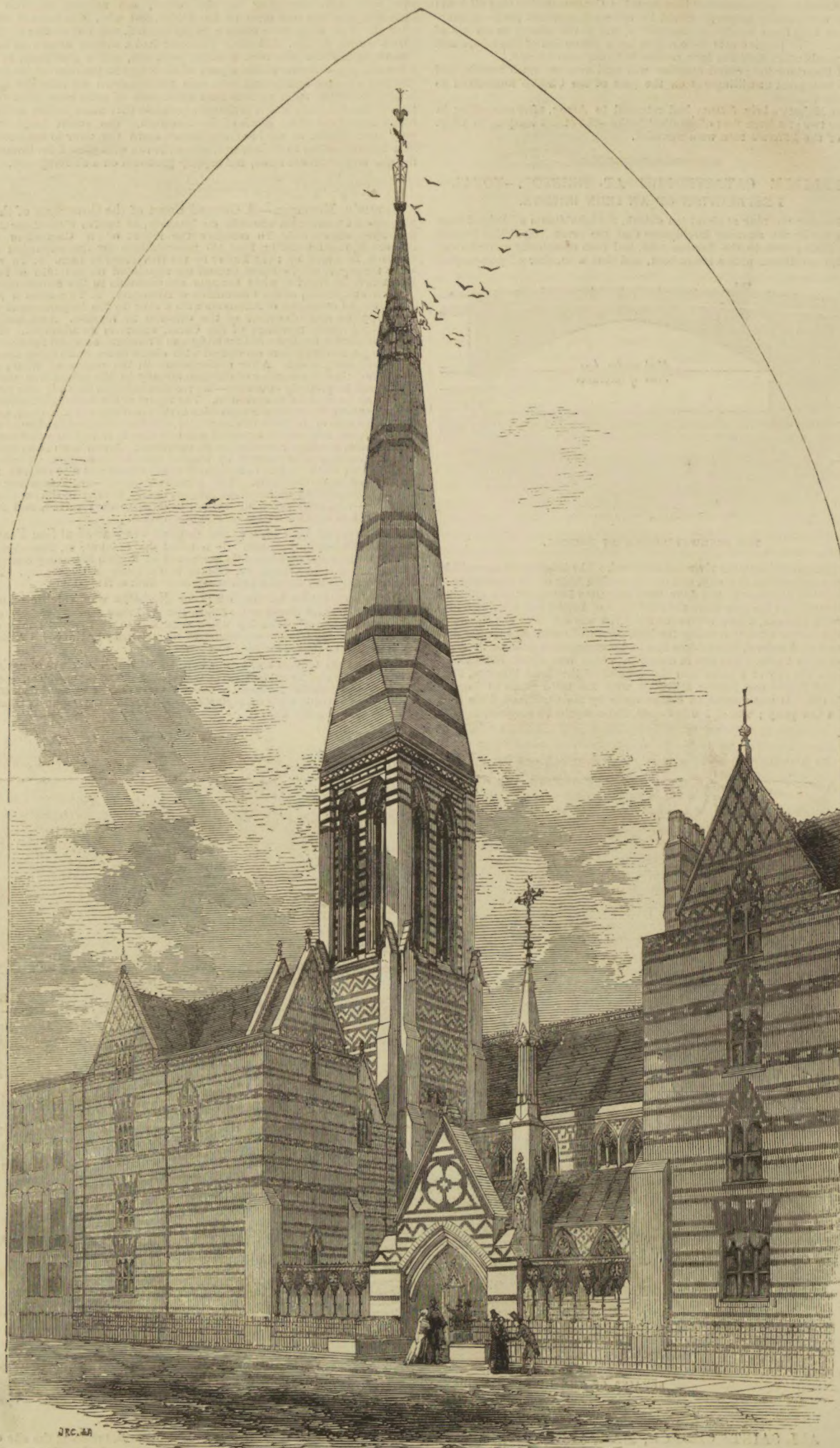
to south was all that could be procured. This area, including the site of the old Margaret-street Chapel, the property of the Crown, and three houses belonging to the Duke of Portland, was obtained at the cost of £9000, including leasehold interests, deducted out of the subscriptions originally raised. It is most highly to Mr. Butterfield's credit that he succeeded in producing so effective a building on so confined a space. The Church occupies the northern portion of the area, covering the extreme length of the ground from east to west; the buildings destined for the schools and the clergy-house projecting like wings upon the streetline—the former abutting to the back against the tower, and the latter nearly touching the chancel aisle and the vestry. The central space forms a court-yard, divided from the street by a handsome iron screen, containing the common entrance, of ornamental brickwork, in the centre. The style of the entire mass is that which is known as Early Middle Pointed, i. e. the style of about A.D. 1300.

The whole building is constructed externally of red and black bricks, partly banded and partly arranged in patterns, relieved with blocks of stone so as to produce an effect of constructional polychrome, in which the prominent material should be brick. Hitherto there had been a prejudice against the employment of this material in the revival of Pointed architecture; against which no sufficient argument could be produced, inasmuch as many of the finest Gothic churches of Continental Europe are built of brick. The prejudice seemed peculiarly absurd when the church was to be built in a city like London, where the great majority of the houses are, like those of ancient Babylon, of brick; therefore it was decided that the "model church" should be constructed of brick. It was likewise decided that it should internally present the aspect of con-

structional polychrome, by a greater employment of coloured marbles (chiefly from British quarries) than had ever been attempted in British Pointed architecture; and by the devotion of large wall spaces to fresco paintings of the highest style of art.

Internally, the Church is divided into nave and chancel, both clerestoried, with north and south aisles: those of the nave being of three bays each; while those of the chancel are of one bay, not reaching to its eastern end. The tower stands at the south-west angle of the Church, covering the space of the most western bay of the aisle on that side. It is, including the spire, 227 feet in height from the ground—the latter being of slate and lead, built in what architectural writers term the "broach" form: its general contour recalling the spires of the magnificent churches of Lübeck. It is, we believe, at present, and will be, until the completion of the clock-tower of the New Houses of Parliament, the highest spire in London, being more elevated than that of Bow Church or of St. Bride's. The south porch, the principal entrance from the court to the Church, is just clear of the school-house. More eastward there is another door in the same aisle. The clustered pillars of the nave are of red Peterhead gra-

nite (the material of the columns so conspicuous in the façade of the Carlton Club-house), with boldly foliated capitals of alabaster. But the largest use of marble has been made in the chancel, which is mainly lined by alabaster and statuary marble; the arches dividing the chancel from its aisles being filled with tracery of alabaster, resting on shafts of dark red serpentine; while on the ground line of the sanctuary beyond, these rich materials are delicately sculptured into canopied arcades, forming most graceful sedilia. But the most original treatment is to be found in the east end and the upper portions of the side walls. Local reasons prohibited the insertion of an east window—a privation which was the more contentedly submitted to, as it afforded an opening for the display of mural painting which would otherwise have been hardly attainable. The work was entrusted to that distinguished artist W. Dyce, Esq., R.A., who designed and has partly executed a painting in fresco of the highest order of pictorial excellence. The field for the display of his pencil presented a large surface of wall, rising into a high tympanum, with curved sides following the vaulting lines of the roof. This upper space is devoted to a large representation of the "Celestial Court, with our Lord in Majesty in the centre." Mr. Dyce



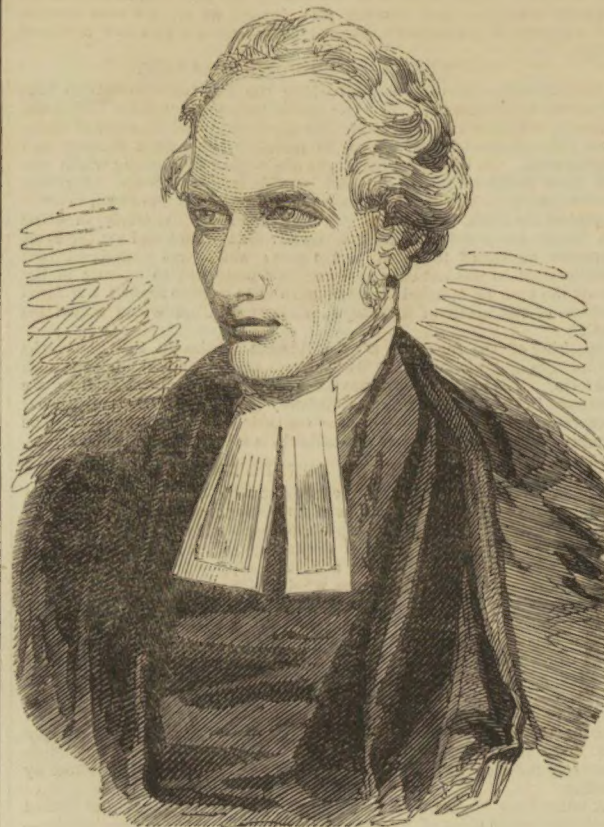
NEW CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, MARGARET-STREET, CAVENDISH-SQUARE.

has completed this painting, which is universally admitted to be one of the finest productions of modern art. Underneath there are to be in the large central panels in the upper line, the "Crucifixion," and below it the "Infancy of the Saviour;" and on each side, in twelve smaller panels, standing figures of the Apostles. The panels are framed in canopied architectural work (flat niches as it were) of alabaster. Figures of the four Evangelists, and of the four greater Prophets facing each other are to continue the design round the side walls of the sanctuary. The upper portion of the chancel is decorated with geometrical mosaic work in different-coloured marbles. The roof of the chancel is groined in stone; to allow space for which treatment, the chancel is externally more elevated than the nave—for which numerous precedents are to be found in German churches, as well as in Hythe Church, Kent. The further completion of the internal fittings, including pulpit, organ, stalls, &c., at present stands still for want of funds, many thousands more being needed to bring the building to its desired consummation, and its projectors preferring to carry out slowly, but entirely, their original idea, than to hurry into use a building of diminished artistic perfection. Im-

portant progress has, however, been made in the painted glass: the principal (western) window being already filled with a representation of the Root of Jesse—a favourite subject with old glass painters—by M. Alfred Gerente, a Parisian glass painter of high ability and promise, to whom, after the premature death of his elder brother, M. Henry Gerente, who had attained great eminence in his art, the execution of the principal windows of this church was entrusted. The window in question, designed after one in Wells Cathedral, is distinguished by the boldness of its treatment and the richness of its colour. Another window by M. Gerente is, we hear, shortly expected in the south aisle of the nave. The north aisle of the nave is destitute of windows, being reserved for a belt of frescoes.

The ground-floor of the tower is allotted to the baptistery. The organ, of large dimensions, is to be divided between the two chancel aisles, the trackers passing under the floor.

The Church, when completed, will become the parish church of a "Peel" parish, formed, in 1849, out of the district rectory of All Souls, St. Mary-lebone, in the perpetual patronage of the Bishop of London. Its present and first incumbent is the Rev. W. Upton Richards.



THE VEN. ARCHDEACON SINCLAIR (KENSINGTON).



THE REV. JOHN JENNINGS (ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, WESTMINSTER).



THE REV. R. BURGESS, B.D. (TRINITY, UPPER CHELSEA).

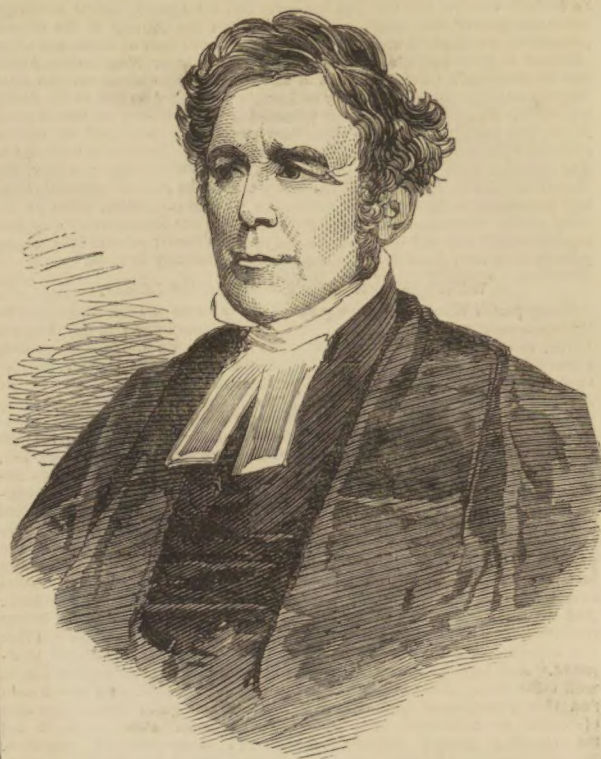
F A S T - D A Y S E R M O N S .



THE REV. J. S. ANDERSON (WHITEHALL).



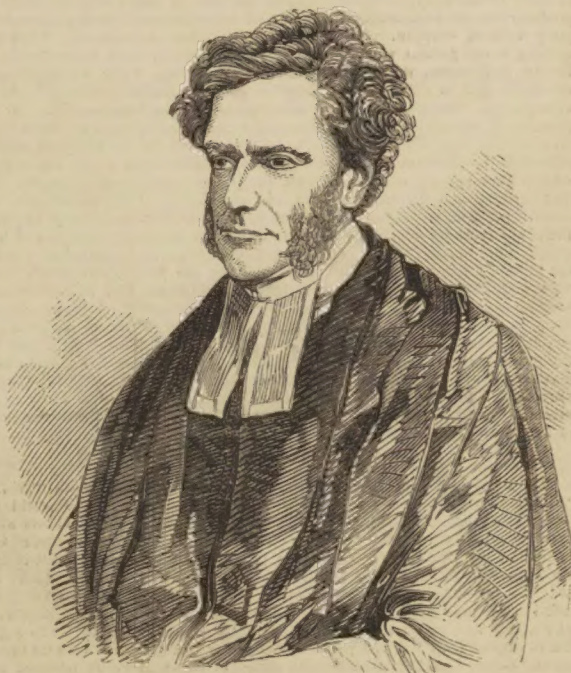
THE REV. W. CURLING (ST. SAVIOUR, SOUTHWARK).



THE REV. JOSEPH BROWN (CHRISTCHURCH, BLACKFRIARS-ROAD).
FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY BEARD.



THE REV. H. ALFORD (QUEBEC CHAPEL).



THE REV. CORNELIUS HART (OLD ST. PANCRAS).—FROM A
DAGUERRETYPE BY BEARD.



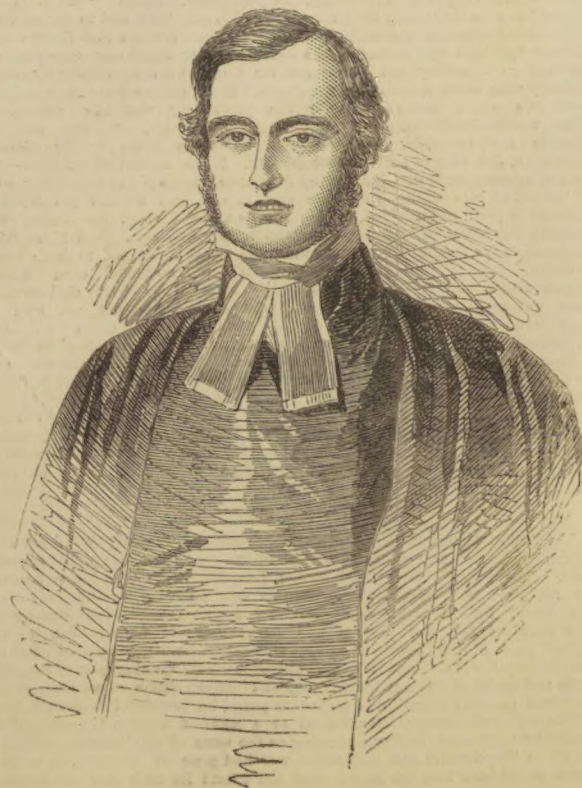
THE REV. F. W. WRENCH (ST. MICHAEL, CORNHILL).—FROM A
PHOTOGRAPH BY BEARD.



THE REV. ROBERT MONTGOMERY (PERCY CHAPEL).



THE REV. T. B. MURRAY (ST. DUNSTON, EAST).—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH
BY BEARD.



THE REV. J. TOOGOOD (ST. ANDREW, HOLBORN).

THE DAY OF HUMILIATION.

WEDNESDAY having been appointed by proclamation for "a solemn fast, humiliation, and prayer before Almighty God, in order to obtain pardon of our sins, and in the most devout and solemn manner to send up our prayers and supplications to the Divine Majesty, imploring His blessing and assistance on our arms, for the restoration of peace to her Majesty and her dominions," was devoutly observed throughout the whole of the metropolis. Closed shops and crowded places of worship were to be seen in all parts of London; and it may be doubted whether any day that has ever been set apart by Royal command for special prayer and religious exercise, within the memory of the present generation, was marked with more decorum. The Houses of Lords and Commons set a good example by attending respectively at Westminster Abbey and St. Margaret's Church; and at a later hour in the afternoon the Lord Mayor and Corporation of the City of London proceeded on foot to St. Paul's Cathedral, where a sermon was preached by the Bishop of the diocese. In all the parochial churches collections were made in behalf of various charities; the exceptions being chiefly such as might have been expected to lead in such a good work—for instance, St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey, the Chapel Royal (St. James's), and the Temple. Of the amount collected, some will be devoted to the erection of a Christian Church in Turkey, some to the relief of the wives and families of the soldiers in the East, some to orphan asylums and "homes," established mainly for the benefit of children whose parents have been connected with the naval and military services.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—HOUSE OF LORDS.

Every part of Westminster Abbey was filled prior to the hour appointed for the commencement of the service. A procession was formed in the House of Lords, and their Lordships walked from the House to the Abbey. There were present the Lord Chancellor, the Earl Granville, the Earl Waldegrave, the Earl Grey, Lord Redesdale, the Bishops of Chichester, Winchester, St. David's, St. Asaph, and Salisbury, with some other peers. The sermon was preached by the Lord Bishop of Salisbury, from the words, "God be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke xviii., part of verse 13). He commenced by observing that the judgment that the war was a just and necessary one was very unanimous, and, on the whole, correct; and he put this remark on the very front of his discourse because a different judgment would introduce into the subjects of humiliation on that day other elements than those which belonged to it. One effect of such a judgment should be to increase, quicken, and confirm our endeavours to obtain success, and secure the restoration of peace. As regards the purpose for which they had assembled, national humiliation, to be anything better than the profession of the Pharisee, must be based on personal humiliation—on a deep sense of those sins which mark our characters as individuals. And we must add to these confessions, to this acknowledgment of sin, hearty resolutions and vows of amendment—to do our utmost to lesson the evil that has happened, and to compass all those great objects which are yet unattained. And here, he admitted that the most sincere resolutions would meet with difficulties. When benevolent feelings were awakened, they would often find that principles of truth claim to regulate and guide them. The case of education illustrated this. No one has been able to mark out the standing ground between secular and denominational education. Still, whatever may be these difficulties, every man will find plenty of work to do, and a sound faith, a hearty charity, and a strong will, may work wonders, and open a pathway through all obstacles. In saying such things he was not throwing blame on any persons. If he were to proportion and distribute blame, he must confess that the clergy must receive the greater share, and that the burden of past neglect and present duty presses with more fearful responsibility on the Bishops of the Church than on any other men in this kingdom; but having owned this, he would give a caution against harsh and rough judgments about the Church and its minister, and would plead in their behalf that they are but men. In conclusion, he expressed a hope that besides any direct blessings which God may grant to them in answer to their prayers and other sacrifices, the moral influence of that day might be good, in steadying, calming, and giving decision to the national mind—in helping to keep it clear of wrath and bitterness, and in fixing it on the one legitimate object, a right and lasting peace. War might thus be not an unmixt evil. Indeed, it had already been profitable to us in many ways: our army and navy had given proofs of the noblest devotion to their country's cause; the self-denial, and gentleness, and patience, and perseverance of those Christian women who have ministered to the wants of the sick and wounded, had set us at home a noble example; "and I trust," said his Reverence, "that we shall learn that lesson, that whenever God, in His mercy, restores to us the blessing of peace, we shall find that the storm of war has cleared away many clouds which were darkening our horizon. Let us hope that those hearts which are being now practised in expressions of strong, yet tender sympathy, will not, when the present demand upon them ceases, draw in those sympathies from daily exercise, but that the poor, the ignorant, the publican, and the harlot, the prisoner, the orphan, and the widow, and the sick and the feeble will all experience the fruits both of that unselfish charity which the perils of war have so fostered and invigorated, and of this humiliation of ourselves before God. This confession of our sins—these resolutions to amend our ways—have been prompted by our earnest desires for a successful issue of the calamities of the present war, and for the restoration of peace."

ST. MARGARET'S.—HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House of Commons assembled at a quarter before twelve, at which time there were a large number of members present. In a few minutes afterwards a procession was formed, and moved to St. Margaret's Church. It consisted of the Speaker, preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms (Lord Charles Russell), and followed by Lord Palmerston, Sir George Grey, Sir Charles Wood, Mr. Vernon Smith, Mr. Wilson, Mr. F. Peel, Mr. Horsman, Sir James Graham, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Cardwell, Major Reed, Sir H. Willoughby, Mr. Guinness, Mr. Newdegate, Mr. J. Macgregor (Sandwich), Mr. G. Butt, Mr. E. Ball, Admiral Walcott, &c. Every door of St. Margaret's Church was besieged by crowds attracted by Mr. Melville's pulpit fame; and, though every exertion was made by the Rev. Mr. Cureton, the Rector, to provide accommodation for all, many were disappointed. After the usual prayers, and the prescribed form, the Rev. Henry Melville, B.D., ascended the pulpit, and selected for his text the 8th chapter of the 1st Book of Kings, 4th and 5th verses:—"If thy people go out to battle against their enemy, whithersoever thou shalt send them, I shall pray unto the Lord toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house which I have built for thy name: then hear Thou in Heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause." The rev. gentleman commenced by referring to instances recorded in Scripture of the success which had attended acts of national humiliation. From these he argued that such acts were acceptable to God, though it could not be denied that it was their sincerity, and that alone, which caused them to find favour in His sight. He then alluded more especially to the circumstances of the present humiliation. We were not summoned as a nation to humble ourselves before God because we were engaged in a war which, if it had been fruitful in triumphs, had entailed on us no common disasters; because it rested with the Almighty alone, who was emphatically and repeatedly, in Scripture, called "the Lord of Hosts," to give the victory which we desired to our fleets and to our armies. We entered upon this war with no selfish purpose. We saw that Europe was already darkened by the shadow of a colossal power which was ever pushing forward its boundary, and it was not for England to sit tamely by while country after country lost its independence. If we had no fears for ourselves—if we could not contemplate the probability that the advancing tide would break on our own shores—at least, it was in our charter not to suffer the weak to be borne down by the strong. Therefore, did we gird ourselves for the war. It was no war of ambition—no war of aggrandisement. We took up the championship of the oppressed; and if we looked beyond the immediate case, it was that we saw the world's liberties in peril, and resolved, ere too late, to make a stand for civilisation, for enlightenment, for human progress and human happiness. And if we had unsheathed the sword only to maintain rights which ought not to have been invaded, and to prevent aggressions which threatened even worse disasters than themselves, we might the better hope that God would look favourably on our humiliation, and that He would not turn a deaf ear when, falling low at his footstool—the ashes on our hearts and the sackcloth on our souls—we exclaimed, in the words of the text, "Hear thou in heaven our prayer and our supplication, and maintain our cause." The rev. gentleman pointed out, in glowing language and brilliant imagery, the peculiarity of the term, that it was in heaven we especially desired that our prayers might be heard. The peculiarity belonged also to the Lord's Prayer, which was addressed to our Father "in heaven." Of course, the Divine Omnipresence must always be assumed or taken for granted in prayer. We could have no confidence if we knew nothing of God but that He dwelt in some far-off depth of infinite space.

ST. PAUL'S.

The Day of Humiliation was observed throughout the City with becoming solemnity. The choir of the Cathedral of St. Paul's was crowded in every part. The Prayers were read by the Rev. Mr. Calvert, and the Lessons by the Rev. Mr. Povah. The Sermon was preached by the Very Rev. the Dean, Dr. Milman, who took for his text the 2nd chapter of the Book of Job, and part of the 10th verse:—"What! shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?" In the course of the eloquent illustrations of the text, the character of Job, the type and model of all that was human, and the exposition of that which the reverend preacher described as a glorious poem, he proceeded to remark upon the meaning of a national humiliation as a national worship of God; and in reference to the war invoked a blessing on the arms of our country; and said if all in this eventful and momentous war had gone on smoothly, as at first, what would have been the issue? what the effect? let each man ask himself.

Had all been successful, might we not have become too much enamoured of war? War was inevitable so long as there were powerful and ambitious sovereigns in the world. War was an evil, a terrible evil; but all history showed that there never was a war commenced under such circumstances, with so much magnitude, to such an extent, and with so much splendour, and at such a distance—upwards of three thousand miles from our own shores. We had, however, more terrible enemies to contend with—those of climate, disease, and privation. He would demand full justice to those who had delayed the commencement of the war—who had clung to peace till peace could no longer be. Were we to be champions of the oppressed, with no suffering, no privation? Were the tempests to respect our ships? So many leaden missiles, so many flashes of powder and thundering of cannon, and no falling of masses of living men! In all later wars the knowledge of battles won or battles lost came to our ears by the wonderful facilities of communication. They are no sooner over than they are before us in language and terms and with such power that we are, as it were, at the very seat of war, with all its splendour, ovation, and terror! Were we to expect to see charges of unbroken cavalry dashing through and destroying the enemy, and cannon thundering against the city, with no reverse. No check! God, in his own good time, would give us victory. Had we no faith in the justice of our cause! and if, from the events of the last two months, there was any dastardly weakness, who would have to answer for that! The league of the Powers of the West against the Asiatic and Northern barbarians might, however, bring forth peace. The Rev. Dean then proceeded, in language powerful and eloquent, to extol the conduct of our soldiers, who demanded all our admiration—soldiers who had never met their enemies but to strike, who had suffered with such noble endurance, sickness, disease, and privations, and human suffering beyond all imagination—exposure, cold, without repose, the very elements freezing and numbing the blood in their veins! After paying a just tribute to Miss Nightingale, and those ladies who had accompanied her in her holy mission, and who, by their assiduity, tenderness, and watchfulness, have saved so many valuable lives, the Reverend Dean concluded by calling upon all present to aid by their subscriptions, even to the smallest mite, the means for alleviating the sufferings of the sick and wounded, and the relief of the orphans and widows of those who had fallen.

KENSINGTON.

The Venerable Archdeacon Sinclair took his text from Joel ii., 15:—"Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly." The Archdeacon remarked, that, "while we are tracing the disasters which have befallen the greatest armament that ever crossed the seas, to faults in our administrative system, and to the negligence or incapacity of our administrators, we must on no account confine our view to secondary causes, but must look beyond them to the Providence of God: that not only He woundeth, and His hands make whole, but He overrules the exercise of our intellectual powers; it is the inspiration of the Almighty that giveth understanding; He either frustrateth our counsels and turns our wisdom into foolishness, or gives us knowledge, discretion, and intelligence. The question therefore arises wherefore God contendeth with us? To what cause shall we ascribe our frightful and deplorable reverses? Was it want of bravery in our soldiers or seamen! On the contrary, they evinced a courage seldom equalled, and never surpassed in the annals of the world. Did they betray effeminacy or impatience under suffering and privation! On the contrary, never were extremities of hardship more manfully endured. Did they give evidence of irreligion or profaneness! So far from this, the private letters both of officers and men abound with sentiments of piety so naturally, so forcibly, and in the hour of death so pathetically expressed, that the man is little to be envied who can read these documents of piety without emotion. If then," continued the Archdeacon, "there be nothing in our gallant armament that would especially draw down upon it the Divine displeasure, the question next arises whether there be anything in ourselves, and in the nation at large to provoke that displeasure." After enlarging on the general faults and errors of the nation—such as the progress of superstition, the prevalence of crime, the irreligion of the working classes, and the negligence of the higher orders in not applying efficient remedies for these evils—he proceeded to remark upon those national sins which have special connection with our present warlike struggle—our vain gloriolousness, our imprudence, and our pugacity. "Notwithstanding our insular position, so favourable to peace," he said, "the history of Great Britain is a history of successive wars; we have not many intervals of tranquillity to boast of;" and he proceeded to express his apprehension lest, at the present crisis, in the pugacious temper of the public, our rulers should "go with the tide, decide against their own judgment, and be deterred from proposing or accepting terms of peace which their better information showed them to be wise and equitable." In conclusion, he exhorted his hearers to self-examination, advising each to ask himself the question—"Do I find that my general sentiments and conduct have been, and continue to be, such as to give my fellow-citizens reason to reproach me for contributing more or less to provoke Divine displeasure, and call down God's judgment, at a most critical period, upon my country, instead of doing all I can, through Christ the Prince of Peace, to propitiate His favour?"

ST. JOHN'S, WESTMINSTER.

The Rev. John Jennings, Rector, took his text from Isaiah xxvi., 9. "When Thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness." Having pointed out the calamities and disasters which have befallen our Army in the East, which has been more than decimated by the sword and the pestilence, and having called upon the congregation humbly to acknowledge the Divine justice, that has and scourged our nation with the sore judgments of the sword and pestilence, to confess and deplore those sins; by means of which, both as a nation and as individuals, we are offensive in God's sight; and to entreat Him "in His wrath to remember mercy, lest we be no more a nation,"—the preacher enumerated some of those grievous national sins, which have drawn down the judgments of the Almighty, and more especially our national vanity and proud boastings. As of old, "God turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish;" He sent among them pestilence after the manner of Egypt; their young men have He slain with the sword, and taken away their horses, and made the smell of their camps to come up into their nostrils. He concluded by earnestly appealing to his congregation to seal their solemn vows of humiliation and amendment of life, by their gifts to the treasury of the Lord, by their alms to the sick and needy; so doing, their fast and humiliation would be sanctified to them by the Holy Spirit, and their prayers would ascend to the mercy seat through the intercession of our great High Priest, and draw down a blessing upon our arms for the restoration of peace; and the righteous Lord, the Prince of Peace, who love righteousness, would teach us righteousness by His judgments.

TRINITY, SLOANE-STREET, UPPER CHELSEA.

The Rector, the Rev. Joseph Burgess chose his text from Psalm lxxvii. v. 14:—"Thou art the God that doest wonders; thou hast declared Thy strength among the people." After defining the object for which the people assembled in the respective places of worship this day, the preacher proceeded to answer some popular objections as to the fitness of the time for such humiliation; and the main scope of the discourse was to show that it was inconsistent to acknowledge the hand of God in our victories, and cease to acknowledge the same power in our disasters. The several events in which the providence of God had been strongly marked during the war were then pointed out, and the duties of those at home to assist, as much as possible, in relieving the wants and anxieties of our brave warriors. The preacher deprecated the censure which was so carelessly passed upon our brave commanders, without a sufficient knowledge of the difficulties they had to contend with; and he ended with an appeal to the congregation on behalf of the institution existing, or about to be formed, where the infants of our soldiers would be taken care of.

CHAPEL ROYAL, WHITEHALL.

The Rev. J. S. Anderson, one of her Majesty's Chaplains, delivered an eloquent discourse upon Galatians, vi., 7-8:—"Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the spirit, shall of the spirit reap life everlasting."

QUEBEC CHAPEL.

The Rev. H. Alford chose his text from Lamentations, c. iii. v. 40: "Let us search, and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord." The preacher delivered a very impressive discourse to a crowded congregation, and was heard with extreme attention. There was no collection made here; a collection having been made on the preceding Sunday, for the London Reformatory for Adult Male Criminals, when the sum of £222 was contributed.

PERCY CHAPEL,

CHARLOTTE-STREET.

The Rev. Robert Montgomery preached at this chapel an eloquent sermon, taking for his text Ecclesiastes, c. vii., v. 14, "In the day of adversity, consider." The preacher dwelt with great power upon the aspect of the present times, and the state of the war, and our reliance upon our own exertions and the Divine aid to bring the great struggle to a peaceful termination. The discourse was heard with profound attention by the congregation; and the poetic eloquence and impressive manner of the preacher were fully appreciated.

ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK.

The Rev. W. Curling delivered an impressive discourse in the morning upon Jeremiah c. viii., v. 9:—"They have rejected the word of the Lord; and what wisdom is in them!" The preacher commenced with observing that it was a fearful sign of national irreligion when a people, in the midst of troubles, did not regard those troubles, nor desire to be humbled under them. He made

this remark because the present proclamation for a National Fast did not appear to carry with it, to the extent it ought, the nation's sympathies. Some seemed to consider that there was more cause for thanksgiving than humiliation at this moment. But, to his own mind, the duty of penitential prayer was most pressing and urgent: "I look at God," he observed, "with hope and trembling, for I know not what He will do. I think we have been so chastised in the afflictive visitation He has laid upon us—I think the indications of His displeasure have been so marked in the disasters we have experienced since we entered on this formidable war—that, to me, it appears the strangest infatuation to indulge at this time in the strain of thanksgiving and song of triumph. We may, indeed, bless God that He has dealt with us less than our iniquities have deserved. But He has surely smitten us with unusual severity. He has wounded us in our pride by cutting off our army. He has pierced us in the depths of our hearts; for when has our nation had such mourning as the dismal tidings from Varna and the Crimea produced among us a few months ago! With such an affliction 'laid upon our loins' we ought to be prostrate at the feet of our God. We ought to come together asking the cause why He has so afflicted us; and, if we can ascertain the cause, we ought to deplore the sin, and ask for grace to sin no more." The preacher then, comparing England with Israel, showed in both cases that God had given His word to guide both nations in the discharge of their duty; that as in Israel, so in England, "the Word of the Lord" had been "rejected" practically by rulers and people. Rulers had ceased to ask "What is Scriptural?" and expediency was all they thought about in the determination of the gravest questions; the polar star of religious principle, which guided our fathers when the Word of God was restored to us at the Reformation, having been long lost sight of in the free-thinking spirit of the age. The people, also, notwithstanding their possession of the Scriptures, very little regarded them, as the neglect of the means of grace, the increasing amount of Sabbath desecration, and the demoralisation and vices of the age fully showed. "For this God has punished us as he did Israel, by taking away wisdom from our rulers, the mismanagement of which the nation so properly complains;—a mismanagement that has cost us the best portion of the best army in the world, is not to be viewed (said the preacher) as an accident, but as a positive judgement from God." He could look for nothing but a continuation of evils if rulers and the ruled did not jointly return to "the Word of the Lord;" in obedience to which the nation would again be prosperous, triumphant, and happy.—The St. Saviour's congregation was immense.

OLD ST. PANCRA'S.

The Incumbent, the Rev. Cornelius Hart, preached an impressive discourse from Zephaniah, c. ii. v. 3: "Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought this judgment; seek righteousness; seek meekness; it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger." The Prophet foretelling the captivity of the children of Israel under the Babylonish rule, counsels them to forsake their evil and corrupt practices, and to turn with their whole heart to God the Gracious and the Merciful in pure and holy worship. In the day of wrath, Jehovah alone is the hiding-place of His people. Meekness is the resignation of things past, present, and to come, to the Supreme Disposer of all events. Righteousness is not only the righteousness of the Mediator, but also the righteousness, justice, and equity between man and man. God's righteous indignation is manifested against every iniquity and transgression of man. He is a just God, and will by no means spare the impenitent guilty. The preacher concluded with an earnest appeal to seek God's mercy, pardoning the past and prospering the future, that He would over-rule. The church was crowded, and the sermon was listened to with great attention.

CHRISTCHURCH, BLACKFRIARS.

The Rector, the Rev. Joseph Brown, took his text in the morning from Amos, iv., 10:—"I have sent among you the pestilence, after the manner of Egypt; your young men have I slain with the sword, and have taken away your horses; and I have made the stink of your camps to come up under your nostrils; yet have ye not returned unto Me, saith the Lord." In the evening the rev. gentleman chose Psalm ii., 17:—"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise." The evening sermon was a continuation of the morning sermon; both pointing out—I. The duty of humbling ourselves before God: that it applied to nations, to families, to individuals. II. The reasonableness of this duty, especially at the present time—1. From the difficulties already encountered; 2. From the difficulties still before us. III. The encouragement to the performance of this duty was shown—1. From the promises the Almighty has made to hear prayer; 2. From the many instances of the Lord's deliverance, as seen in the Scriptures. In conclusion, the congregation were exhorted—to find out their own sins; to seek pardon through the Lord Jesus Christ; to pray for our own country; to pray for peace; to pray for our forces now engaged in the war, and for those who have been bereaved of their relatives; and, finally, to pray for that time so often and so long foretold in the Bible, when the Prince of Peace shall reign throughout the whole as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.—The attendance of all classes, especially the poor, was very good—1885 persons were present at Divine Service during the day. Policemen were stationed at each gate to count the number.

ST. MICHAEL'S, CORNHILL.

The text was the 14th verse of the 2nd chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke:—"On earth peace and goodwill to men." Before entering upon the main subject of his discourse, the Rev. F. W. Wrench referred to the object for which they had assembled—"to plead with God on behalf of our distracted country, and to mourn over those disasters which, in His divine providence, He has seen fit to cast upon us." After painting the horrors of war, and showing how much it is opposed in its nature to the Gospel of Peace, he concluded by urging his hearers to make the Fast what it ought to be, as commanded in the Scriptures, by giving food to the hungry, and extending their aid to the poor.

ST. ANDREW'S, HOLBORN.

The Rector, the Rev. J. J. Toogood, chose for his text, Ezra, viii., 21:—"Then I proclaimed a fast there, that we might afflict ourselves before God: to seek of him a right way for us and for our little ones and all our substance." In the text, Ezra—the leader of the colony of the Jews—proclaimed a fast, considering it right that the nation should humbly and sorrowfully acknowledge their offences against God, and supplicate His gracious favour, that He might guide and help them. The preacher dwelt at some length upon the nature of fasts, and concluded thus:—"War is the scourge of God on nations for their sins; and, to whatever secondary causes our misfortunes may be attributed, war was the commencement of them. The sins of the nation have called for punishment, and the object of the appointment of this day is, that we may seek repentance and pardon therefore. In the prayers to be used we are taught thus to pray—'Grant, O Lord, that we may learn righteousness from Thy judgments abroad. Take away from us all pride and hardness of heart, and contempt of Thy word. Endue us with a spirit of piety and devotion, of justice and temperance, of humility and charity, as becomes our Christian profession; and that the blessing which we have long enjoyed, both spiritual and temporal, may, through Thy providence, be continued to us and our posterity. Teach us ever to lift up our hearts above this lower world to Thy heavenly kingdom, where pain and sorrow and war and hatred shall be no more.'"

FATAL GYMNASICS.—Towards the afternoon five or six Russian soldiers came from the works round the Malakoff Tower, apparently to pick up some of the dry firewood which lay about. One of them, however, advanced before the rest, and executed an extraordinary kind of gymnastic dance in defiance of our batteries. A gun was accordingly loaded with shell, in our right attack, and carefully laid so as to fire the instant the enemy's soldiers collected to return to the earthwork through one particular embrasure. These movements excited the attention of the Malakoff Batteries, and while the one sergeant of artillery, after pointing the gun, was engaged in lighting his pipe from that of another man's, the Russians fired a shell, which entered the embrasure, and burst on the breach of the gun just laid. A piece of shell struck the sergeant in the neck, tearing off a large piece of skin and flesh, and leaving the arteries of the throat completely bare, though fortunately uninjured. His comrade, who was giving him the light, had the top of his cap, with a couple of inches of his scalp, completely cut away. Beyond these wounds, which were neither of them dangerous, the shell did no damage; and, while waiting for the doctor, the sergeant called out, "Don't mind me, boys, but watch the Russians, for the gun's beautifully pointed." His comrades accordingly did watch the Russian soldiers who had issued forth, and as they ran forward in a group to return to the battery, fired the gun and threw the shell with such perfect accuracy, that it burst among them and killed three. Their bodies remained in the scarp where they fell till night, when they were removed by the enemy.—Letter from Balaklava, Feb. 28.

TOO MUCH WARM CLOTHING.—There is now quite enough and to spare of warm clothing; the only article in which there is any deficiency being boots, and private individuals are advised to suspend their charitable exertions till they are specifically called upon to contribute to the army. It is difficult, under the most favourable circumstances, to distribute articles of warm clothing, because it is by no means easy to get them away from Balaklava even in detail, and then the transport to the various camps, from any central point, is tedious and embarrassing. But the length of time which has elapsed since their particular bales were shipped has sufficed to diminish the value of the contents very considerably. Two months ago they would have saved the lives of hundreds, and have proved most serviceable to the sick and wounded who lived. Now, Government stores have arrived in abundance, and the stream of private charity has flowed over the bounds of necessity.—Letter from the Camp, March 6.

The Earl of Aberdeen will, in the course of a short period, leave England, for Egypt, in order to see his son, Lord Haddo, who contemplates prolonging his *sojourn* in the East for some time longer. Lord Haddo is at present in the neighbourhood of Cairo.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, March 25.—5th Sunday in Lent. Queen Elizabeth died, 1603.
MONDAY, 26.—Duke of Cambridge born, 1819.
TUESDAY, 27.—Peace of Amiens, 1802. Gunpowder introduced, 1380.
WEDNESDAY, 28.—General Abercrombie died, 1801.
THURSDAY, 29.—Siege of Acre, 1799.
FRIDAY, 30.—Cambridge Term ends. Dr. Hunter died, 1783.
SATURDAY, 31.—Oxford Term ends. Beethoven died, 1827.

HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 31.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
6 40	7 3	7 30	8 4	8 49	9 35	10 22
11 8	11 40	Tide	0 23	0 46	1 7	1 26

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1855.

WITHIN a week the House of Commons has had the opportunity of expressing its opinion upon several subjects of a social rather than a political character, and it will not be unprofitable to examine the chief of these decisions, less in reference to their own merits than as a gauge of the fidelity with which the House of Commons expresses the feelings of the nation. Among the topics which have been submitted to the House have been the Wife's Sister question, the Protection of Factory Women and Children question, the Education question, and the Sunday Amusement question. It will not be denied that all these measures have a direct interest for the mass of the people, and that these are subjects which will be considered, discussed, and fought over, long after the ephemeral contests of factions, and their success and failure, shall have been forgotten. The rational settlement of any one of these points is of more vital importance to the country than the vindication of the character of a whole Cabinet of statesmen, or the rise or fall of half-a-dozen political cliques; and when this and cognate truths are not only admitted, but the conviction is acted up to, by the Legislature and the public, we shall find less time wasted upon men and more time bestowed upon measures. At present, unquestionably, the pervading feeling in Parliament is the other way, and the character of the man has precedence of that of the measure, sometimes to the exclusion of the latter—as was curiously instanced in the House of Lords a few nights ago, when Lord Montagu's censure of a financial operation, by which he alleged that the country was about to be saddled with half a million of new taxation, was met by the Government leader there, very slightly upon the merits, but very zealously upon the point whether Mr. Gladstone had or had not been consistent.

The agitation which a small, but wealthy and interested party, continue to cause in order to procure the alteration of the law which prevents marriage with the sister of a deceased wife, the continually bringing the question, as a vexed one, before the Legislature, and the retaining it in an uncertain condition, will most probably, sooner or later, compel a recognition of the marriages which it is thus sought to legitimatise. There is an exceedingly strong feeling, nevertheless, throughout a large and most respectable class of the community, against such marriages; and both religious and social objections are indignantly put forward against the proposed alteration. The subject was, perhaps, never worse argued than in Parliament last week, and assuredly no vote could have been swayed either way by anything that fell from the antagonists on the debate originated by Mr. Heywood. We do not, however, state this as a reproach. This social battle is always fought as one of feeling, whatever pretext of argument and logic may be put forth; and in this respect the House, upon the occasion in question, did represent the country, which has uttered and listened to little or no argument on either side of the subject. We are not now advocating either the retention or the relaxation of the law; but we believe that the agitation system, applied to a subject of this kind, is a positive evil, and also that it will ultimately succeed, thereby establishing a baneful precedent.

On Mr. Cobett's bill for the extending to women and young children engaged in factories the privileges which, whether they were beneficial or not, were certainly intended to be conferred when Parliament last interfered upon the question, the House of Commons showed itself a faithful representative of one of our national characteristics. It responded in the half-indolent, half-practical tone of a thorough John Bull, when urged to revise and complete something at which he has previously laboured with his heart in the work, and who answers, "Well, yes, I did mean to have done that; but it is hardly worth while taking up the thing again; and I don't know, after all, whether it is not best as it stands." We can hardly complain of the Commons for not being more earnest and more decided than those who elect them.

Then came Sir John Pakington's attempt to deal with the great question of the Education of the People. This is one of the topics which neither journalist nor reader can approach without a feeling of humiliation. Every man in England knows that the humbler class in this country is not educated (by which word we mean, of course, trained, not merely taught); and that, in consequence, our streets are full of idleness, ribaldry, and ruffianism, and our gaols crowded with specimens of all three in fuller development. The children cry aloud for teaching. Their cry is not a direct appeal for that of which they know not the nature; but who does not recognise, in every brutal outcry of the demoralised children in our streets, the utterance of their need. The blackguard boy yells out a foul phrase as he passes you. You are shocked, angry; you look for the policeman, and declare—as a magistrate upon the bench, in no haste but in all earnestness, recently declared—that "the children of London are its greatest curse!" And such is the point to which civilisation has brought us in 1855. But, after your irritation is past, you interpret that wretched boy's words, and you find that they mean, although he knew it not, "Teach me!" and you reflect that, had you formerly called in the schoolmaster, you need not just now have looked round for the constable. Well, streets full of vice, gaols full of crime, and out comes a permissive bill of the mildest character—homeopathy for brain-fever—a flask of oil for a raging sea; and everybody (a few sectarians excepted) smiling and thanking the promoter of the measure which, after all, will probably not pass. Is not the House of Commons

John Bull all over? "No doubt, Sir; no doubt. Education the great thing, Sir. Much wanted. Frightful amount of vice—frightful. But you see that in any large plan there are so many things to be considered—so many worthy people have scruples; and so—" And so he does not educate, but tries what he can do with the old punishment instead of the new prevention; and gaols rise instead of schools. Is the House of Commons in earnest? Quite as much so as the country; and the responsibility must not be shifted from the people to the Parliament.

Lastly came the Sunday question. The proposed alteration was confided to the weakest championship, and something was lost by this. But the enormous hostile majority would not have been much diminished had Mr. Hume (as was wished) survived to lead the attack. The nation spoke its will in that division, and yet in no way committed itself to the permanent exclusion of the public on Sundays from certain places where the treasures of art and of nature are aggregated. It did not affirm that it was more improper to look at the Gallery of Antiquities in the Museum, upon Sunday, than in the same day to look at the Hampton-court pictures, nor did it assert that it was less Sabbath-breaking to examine the Kew Palm-house on Sunday than to visit the exotics behind the curtain at Sydenham. But it brought out the shrewd old John Bull notion that the small end of the wedge makes way for the large one; and that a legal act, doing away with one set of Sunday restrictions would sooner or later lead to the opening the shops in the Quadrant "after service hours." The law of trespass, and the danger occasioned to rights of ownership by permission of very small encroachments, are topics upon which our old Saxon tenacity is very celebrated. The young Conservative leader, Lord Stanley, threw himself into the ranks of the movement party; and the veteran Premier, after an unanswerable declaration that Sunday ought to be kept properly, declined to intimate by his vote either way, where he conceived propriety to lie; but 235 to 48 was a trumpet-tongued testimony to the real determination of the country that Sunday shall not be made, hereafter, a day of work.

On all points, therefore, the House seems to have been no better and no worse than the country, and at all events to have, in these instances, fulfilled its mission. If the nation really think otherwise, in reference to these or other topics, it should begin by making itself understood—perhaps by understanding itself.

WE notice, with regret, that the papers of the manufacturing districts are beginning to dwell with some earnestness on an increase of pauperism. There have been added, it is said, 15,023 persons to those claiming relief in Lancashire and Yorkshire. From the official returns, we know that, at the beginning of 1855, there were 20,735 persons more in receipt of relief than at the corresponding period of 1854. Such circumstances, coming after a decline in pauperism for several successive years, till the winter of 1853, when the increase again began, may excite a little apprehension. Amongst us there are always many persons desirous of making political capital for themselves out of any public misfortune or any great distress. At present the agitators for peace are likely to take advantage of this increase of pauperism to gain converts to their views; and therefore we must remind our readers that, at the present time, there is much greater distress comparatively in the seaport towns of the United States than is to be found in England. A letter from a Catholic priest resident at New York was published in the *Times* of Thursday, in which he draws a frightful picture of the distress suffered by the people there, and adjures the authorities in England and Ireland to prevent the further emigration of the Irish to the United States. It is, in fact, notorious that thousands of persons have been thrown out of employment in the States; that meetings of the discontented have been held in New York, at which property has been threatened; that great subscriptions have been entered into, and great exertions made to relieve the distress, which in spite of them continues. The distress there, however, tells on our country. It checks the emigration that was going on, and has actually sent back to England a considerable number of emigrants. America, too, is our greatest and best customer, and its demand for our goods has lately fallen off a full fourth, in consequence of its own deficient means. Our readers are well aware, too, that the trade to our Australian colonies has received a very severe check; that in one of them, Victoria, there has lately been an insurrection, preceded and followed by considerable disorder and a diminished demand in the colony for the productions of our looms and forges. These circumstances have much more to do in causing the deficiency of employment and the distress which are complained of in the manufacturing and other districts than the war; and we remind our readers of them that the facts and the truth may be widely known.

The great cause for the increase of pauperism was the very deficient harvest of 1853—one of the worst that has been experienced in this country for many years. It was accompanied, too, by a general deficiency on the Continent, and led to the highest price for wheat in our markets (upwards of 80s.) in January and February, 1854, that has been experienced for many years. A similar cause is now affecting the people of the United States. Tempted by the high prices which prevailed in Europe through the early part of 1854, they exported largely; and the harvest there in 1853 having been a failure, they are really suffering as our people suffered, from short crops. They have at least a fifth less to export than they had last year, and consequently they can buy less goods from foreigners, and have less trade. According to the reports from New York, the price of flour and wheat there has been for some months quite as high as in England, and the consequence is, that they are now sending us no breadstuffs—whereas last year, at this time, they were sending us 100,000 barrels of flour per week and we are sending them comparatively little cloth and iron. A war, which interrupts the fair and reasonable distribution of the harvest of different countries, may undoubtedly aggravate the calamities of bad harvests, but it is quite plain, from the example of the United States, and the condition of our own country, that the nature of the harvests themselves, as they are good or bad, has more influence over national prosperity than war. The United States are in the full enjoyment of peace, but it does not save them from deranged trade, high prices, and considerable distress.

THE COURT.

The arrival of the Court at Osborne was announced in our last Number.

On Monday morning the Prince Consort embarked in the *Fairy* for Portsmouth, accompanied by the Prince of Leiningen, to inspect the Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert*. The Prince afterwards visited the Portsmouth Sailors' Home. The Queen embarked at Osborne-pier, at half-past twelve o'clock, and steamed into Portsmouth harbour, where the Prince re-embarked. The Royal yacht then proceeded to Spithead, and passed through the fleet lying at anchor there.

On Tuesday her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, Prince Arthur, the Princess Royal, Princess Alice, and the Prince of Leiningen, and attended by the Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting, embarked on board the Royal yacht *Fairy*, and went to Spithead to witness the departure of the advanced squadron of the Baltic fleet, under Captain Watson, C.B., which was appointed to take place at about three o'clock, p.m. On the *Fairy* approaching the fleet, which fired a Royal salute, signal was made for Captain Watson and the Captains commanding to come on board the Royal yacht, where they had the honour of being presented to her Majesty, to take leave. As soon as the Captains had returned on board their respective ships, the order was given to weigh, and the squadron immediately proceeded to the eastward, under steam, preceded by the *Fairy*. At about half-past four o'clock the Royal yacht turned and passed each ship in succession, the crews of which manned the yards and cheered her Majesty in passing. The Queen returned to Osborne at half-past five o'clock.

On Wednesday, being the day appointed for the General Fast, the Queen and Prince, with the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, the Princess Royal, and Princess Alice, attended Divine service at Whippingham parish church, where the Rev. G. Prothero performed the service and preached.

The Duchess of Leinster's state of health is understood to be improving.

Viscount and Viscountess Palmerston have issued cards of invitation for a grand banquet to their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cambridge and Princess Mary this evening (Saturday). Her Ladyship will receive a brilliant circle of the aristocracy in the evening.

SANATORIUM OF THE CONSUMPTION HOSPITAL.—The committee of the Consumption Hospital at Brompton are making active exertions to secure the early and efficient working of their Sanatorium at Bournemouth. This auxiliary has been established to give patients the benefit of sea air, &c., after treatment at the parent institution. In aid of the funds for this purpose an anonymous friend has offered a donation of £500, providing ten other sums of £50 each are subscribed before the 1st of May next. Already several amounts have been received; and it is to be hoped that the full number will be realised before the date of expiry. In further aid of the same benevolent cause, Colonel and Mrs. Waugh, of Banksea Castle, have generously offered the free use of their estate for the purpose of holding a bazaar and fancy fair.

IMPROVEMENT IN SCREW STEAM MACHINERY.—A very simple but effectual plan has recently been introduced by Mr. Penn, the eminent engine-maker, for preventing that constant and excessive wear and tear of the bearings on the shafts of screw-steamers which has hitherto been found so great a practical difficulty and so continually recurring a source of expense. He introduces between the bearing and the shaft thin slips of wood, which have the remarkable property of entirely suspending that incessant waste of material which, after a certain pressure on the square inch has been attained, is constantly in progress. This simple expedient has been adopted in the recent repairs of the *Himalaya*, and will probably be applied, if found successful in her case, to all screw steamers. While the surface of the bearing is preserved from waste, singularly enough the slips of wood show no indication of being rubbed away or heated.

REVELATIONS TOUCHING THE COUP D'ETAT.—A great sensation has been produced in Paris by the following scandal, which places M. Thiers in a most awkward situation:—In the "Mémoires d'un Bourgeois de Paris," written some time since by Dr. Veron, it was asserted that a meeting took place in 1849 at the residence of M. Thiers, at which General Changarnier and other influential persons were present, when measures were concerted to dissolve the National Assembly, and to arrest several of its members, among whom was General Lamoricière. The *Presse* denied, upon the authority of M. Thiers, the truth of that statement. Dr. Veron rejoined, through the same journal, by reaffirming the fact in all its particulars, as previously published in the work before named. This brought forth a letter from M. Thiers himself, which was printed in the *Presse* of Sunday evening, contradicting in the most unequivocal manner the assertion of Dr. Veron. The Doctor appealed to Count de Morny, who had been present at the meeting referred to, for a confirmation or correction of his statement; and the Count replied by the following note:—"Paris, March 19th. Monsieur and dear Colleague,—The facts in question related by you in the 'Mémoires d'un Bourgeois de Paris,' are of the most scrupulous exactitude. Your devoted, MORNÉY."

BALACLAVA SPRING MEETING.—The sports of the Camp have commenced. Dog-hunting has been "open" for some days past, and the curs of Karanje have had several hard but successful runs for their lives. To-day "our" first spring meeting took place, and was numerously attended. The races came off on a little piece of undulating ground, on the top of the ridges near Karanje, and were regarded with much interest by the Cossack pickets at Kamara and on Canrobert's-hill. They evidently thought at first that the assemblage was connected with some military demonstration, and galloped about in a state of excitement to and fro; but it is to be hoped they got a clearer notion of the real character of the proceedings ere the sport was over. In the midst of the races a party of twelve Russians were seen approaching the vidette on No. 4 Old Redoubt in the valley. The dragon fired his carbine, and ten of the men turned round and fled; and when the picket came up to the man they found two deserters had come in. One of them was an officer; the other had been an officer, but had suffered degradation for "political causes." They were both Poles, and the ex-officer spoke French and German fluently and well. They expressed great satisfaction at their escape; and the latter said, "Send me wherever you like, provided I never see Russia again." They stated that they had deceived the men who were with them into the belief that the vidette was one of their own outposts; and, as they belonged to a party only just arrived, they advanced boldly till the dragon fired on them, when they discovered their mistake and fled. As the Poles were well mounted they dashed on towards our post; the Cossacks galloped down to try and cut them off, but did not succeed. On being taken to Sir Colin Campbell, they requested that the horses they rode might be sent back to the Russian lines, for, as they did not belong to them, they did not wish to be accused of theft. Sir Colin granted the request, and the horses were taken to the brow of the hill and set free, when they at once galloped off towards the Cossacks. The races proceeded after this little episode just as usual, and subsequently the company resolved itself into small packs of dog-hunters.—*Letter from the Camp, March 5.*

THE BALACLAVA RAILWAY.

THE railway had reached Kadikoi by the beginning of March, the date of the above Sketch. In another fortnight it was expected that the entire length would be finished and handed over to the charge of the military authorities, who will now find themselves relieved from a world of hard work. Our Artist has brought in the newly-erected battery on the left, commanding the scene of a desperate engagement with the Russians. The pile of planks for soldiers' huts, drawn by two horses, gives one a lively notion of the marvellous improvement in the mode of transit which the "navvies" have already effected in the Crimea. To render the contrast more striking between the old and the new state of things, we have only to glance at the dromedary vehicle in the background ploughing its way through the mire in the most helpless fashion, while a large party of the labourers, sitting at their ease on the top of the planks, look down with pity on the poor dromedary driver.

The end of April was generally assigned by engineers as the date at which the Railway would be in action; but the activity and skill of the men intrusted with it appear to have overcome all obstacles in a manner which few could have anticipated, even though accustomed to the celerity of workmanship in England, and which to our soldiers in the Crimea, worn out by the failure of so many fine schemes, appeared an idle dream. It is once more proved that the men who have made England great by their skill, enterprise, and powers of organisation, are of a far different calibre from the officials whom Government employs. While months have been spent in getting warm clothing and the bare necessities for hospital practice, a few weeks only has been required for the conception and execution of a novel and most difficult enterprise.

Another undertaking will shortly be carried out. The ship with the submarine telegraph was hourly expected, and on its arrival no time would be lost in laying down the wires from Kamiesch to Varna. The French are employed in the construction of the land telegraph from Varna to Rustchuk, whence it will be carried on to Bucharest, there to join the great European system. A branch is also being made from Constantinople to Schumla, to join the former line at Rustchuk, so that in a few weeks the communication will be open from the Black Sea to London and Paris, and intelligence will be carried within a few hours. At present the shortest time is six days, and this is only possible when the fair weather leaves the wretched tracks called roads in a state to allow the passage of a Tartar's horse. For anything more than a telegraphic message, of course, the usual ten days will be requisite; but the possibility of sending news, asking questions, and receiving replies within twenty-four hours, will certainly advance not only the capture of the present beleaguered fortress, but must inevitably facilitate the conduct of the war.



PROGRESS OF THE BALACLAVA RAILWAY TO THE CHURCH OF KADIKOI.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)



BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.—INTERIOR OF THE LAST PARALLEL, FRENCH LINE.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

INTERIOR OF THE LAST PARALLEL. FRENCH LINE.

Or what our Artist saw on the 1st of March, during a visit to the French lines, he has here given a faithful Sketch. The parapet, as will be observed, is formed of gabions, surmounted with earth or sandbags. Here and there little holes are made for the sharpshooters to take their aim at the Russians without being seen. In the covered way a number of soldiers are busily engaged, with picks and other tools, cutting the rock. The men near the parapet are in the act of loading or discharging their guns; while several officers are looking through the holes in the parapet, trying to find out what the Russians are about.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT. (Continued from page 283.)

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

The Earl of ALBEMARLE asked whether the Governor-General of Canada had communicated to the Home Government the fact that some of the native Red Indians had contributed the sum of £100 in aid of the Patriotic Fund for the relief of the wives and families of our soldiers and sailors engaged in the war against Russia?

Earl GRANVILLE said that he had not, as yet, received any information of the fact; but he would inquire into the matter.

The Earl of DERBY asked whether it was the intention of the Government to introduce any measure during the present session for the amendment of the law of partnership. The noble Earl then alluded to the growing deficiency of the materials for the manufacture of paper, and said that, from some successful experiments which had been made, it appeared that an excellent description of paper could be manufactured from the fibrous material of the plantain-tree, which grew luxuriously in the West India Islands. As it was desirable to give every encouragement to such a manufacture, he hoped the law of partnership would be so altered as to allow the investment of small capitals in such undertaking.

Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY said, that the Government had in preparation a Bill to Amend the Law of Partnership, which, however, could not be introduced until after the Easter recess. He hoped that the measure would remove many of the evils complained of.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

In consequence of forty members not being present at four o'clock, there was no House.

THE CONFERENCE AT VIENNA.

To the information which we have been able to afford to the public on the subject of the Congress at Vienna, we have to-day but to add, that a second protocol—the record of the proceedings of last Saturday—has received the signatures of the Plenipotentiaries. The discussion of the Four Points will be proceeded with, as we have stated, *seriatim*; but before they are entered upon, there are, we believe, several necessary preliminaries to be yet agreed upon. It is obvious, for instance, that it is requisite for the Plenipotentiaries to decide whether their deliberations on one point shall be finally concluded before they approach another; or whether, having come to a general decision on one point, they shall pass on to another without arranging, for the present, every detail. In the latter case, it is evident that, in perhaps some ten days, the whole Four Points could be discussed and determinations taken; but, in the former, it may readily be imagined that each point would take a long time to settle—the very first, for instance, involving a complete revision of many treaties, and the new constitution of the conditions of existence of the Danubian Principalities.

If the Congress first come to a series of general decisions, and then subsequently work out the details, we shall have the great questions shortly settled; and, greatest of all, we shall know whether or not Russia will yield to our terms on the third point relative to Sebastopol and the Black Sea fleet. Otherwise, supposing no vital differences to arise out of the first two points, the Plenipotentiaries may not arrive at the third for weeks.

Decisions on such matters as this having been arrived at, and the constitution of the Congress in its details having been settled, no doubt the work in hand will proceed as rapidly as possible. The parties present are, we fully believe, equally desirous of peace, but we hope not equally determined to obtain their own terms.

We have already warned the public against too ready a belief in peace as certain to be the result of the Congress at Vienna; and we would now also put them on their guard against the false reports circulated both at home and abroad—with reference to the proceedings of the Congress.

Yesterday, for instance, it was announced, in the columns of a contemporary, that "The first of the Four Points was, on the 17th, definitely settled, and adopted by all parties." This is quite erroneous, as are the pretended accounts that have been published of what passed, and who spoke, at the various conferences.

We believe that the intelligence which has appeared exclusively in this journal is alone correct—though necessarily scanty—as, in the general conduct of the conferences, the most inviolable secrecy is observed.

We have already stated that, on Saturday, the protocol of Thursday's proceedings, recording the Four Points, and our interpretation of them, was signed by the Plenipotentiaries; and that the Russian Ambassadors, in affixing their signatures, did so—reserving always the dignity of the Russian empire from any detriment. Since this, a protocol of Saturday's proceedings has been signed, and in this form, from day to day, the labours of the Conference will be recorded.—*Morning Post*, Thursday.

SCHAMYL AND HIS SON.—Within the last few weeks Schamyl has been rejoiced by the return of his son, who, eleven years ago, when of tender age, had the misfortune to be taken prisoner by the Russians. Since then Schamyl had not heard of the boy, and long ago gave him up for lost. It appears, however, that when he was captured, the Russian General, Prince Woronzoff, sent him to St. Petersburg, where the late Emperor took a liking to the lad, and had him educated in the Military Academy. It happened last year that Schamyl, in some sudden surprise, took several Russian ladies prisoners, amongst whom was the Princess Tschirawaddy. They were conducted to one of Schamyl's mountain fastnesses, and confined there as prisoners of war, but treated with the respect and decorum due to their rank and sex. The Governor-General of Tiflis sent a flag of truce to Schamyl to demand the release of the captured ladies, offering a large sum of money and the liberty of several Circassian ladies who had been made prisoners by the Russians. But Schamyl replied that if his son were alive, and the Russians would restore him, he would release all the lady captives. The Emperor Nicholas sent for young Schamyl, gave him his liberty, and fitted him out with the needful equipment to undertake the long journey. The exchange took place in the end of January. Young Schamyl, who, when at St. Petersburg, was not required to abjure the Moslem creed, has profited by his involuntary *sejour* at the Russian capital, and has now returned to his overjoyed father an accomplished cavalier, with a complete military education.

THE ATTACK ON EUPATORIA.—The prisoners taken after the action on the 17th ult., have been examined separately, and their testimony agrees as to the fact that Liprandi's division left Sebastopol on the 12th, marched by way of Bagcheerai, and arrived within three hours of Eupatoria on the night of Friday, the 16th, where they were joined by another division from Perekop, and bivouacked on the plain, concealed by one of its many undulations from the view of the Turks. During the night parties were busily employed in digging holes at a distance of about 500 yards all round the fortifications for the chasseur to ensconce themselves within shot of the artillerymen, which preliminaries the Turks, owing to their want of cavalry at that time, as well as to the darkness of the night, were unable to prevent. Before going to sleep, each man had a pound of meat served out to him and a small faggot of dry sticks, which he was ordered to fix on his bayonet, for the purpose of filling up the ditch, and then burning the town. We saw great numbers of these scattered about, after the engagement, but at that moment no one was able to guess their object. The soldiers were at the same time informed that there were a mere handful of Turks in the place, who were to be hunted out without the slightest difficulty; and, in fact, nothing was wanting but the dawn to crown his Imperial Majesty's arms with a signal triumph. The force of cavalry consisted of no less than 8000; there were a hundred guns, and at least 30,000 infantry. It is evident that the junction of such large bodies of troops as these, drawn from opposite points of the Crimea, could not have been caused by any enterprise less important than a serious and resolute attack on the place, which was undoubtedly made. It is said that on the morning of the attack the fortifications on many points were quite unfinished. None of the heavy, and but a small portion of the field artillery had arrived, and the supply of ammunition was scanty in the extreme; and, notwithstanding all this, nearly seventy guns played on the place for more than three hours without either silencing the fire of the Turks, or producing any important result. The columns of attack were repulsed by musketry. They halted, re-formed, and advanced twice; but the third time retired in disorder.

PILGRIMS FOR PALESTINE.—A fresh caravan of pilgrims to the Holy Land embarked on the 15th on board the *Egyptus* steam-packet at Marseilles. Among the party are Count de Rotterdam, of Piermont (Belgium), president; M. H. Périé, of Castres sur l'Agout, vice-president; the Abbé Gillard, of Boé (Lot et Garonne), chaplain; E. de Vergès, of Paris, treasurer; Regnon, of Nantes, secretary; Count de Boissereaud, of Paris; Counts G. and Arthur de Buisseret, and Count E. de la Barre, of Brussels, &c. Previously to their departure they were all invited to the palace of the Bishop of Marseilles, when each of them received from that Prelate a small silver cross, bearing the date of their departure. Another caravan is to be organised, to leave at the end of August.

TOWN AND TABLE TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &c.

WE have to record a wonder. A recommendation of a Committee of the Commons has been carried into effect by the Lords of the Treasury! This is, indeed, a rare occurrence. Committees and Commissions are too frequently granted to stave off a pressing emergency. The fever will be over, it is said, by the time the Committee has done its work; and the most clamorous cannot any longer complain but what Government has been willing to listen to complaints and to take their suggestions into future consideration. But this future seldom comes at all, and the labours of the Committee or Commission are at length represented by a big Blue book, that some of our Senators sell to their buttermen in exchange for fresh butter and (let us hope) still fresher eggs.

The wonder we have to record is, that the recommendations of a Committee of the Commons of the year 1853 are in part carried into effect in 1855, and that the subject thus taken up in a time of war relates to so peaceful a matter as the Fine Arts. Sir Charles Eastlake—the best-read artist this country has produced (we have not forgotten Mr. Fuseli, my learned R.A.)—has just been appointed the salaried Director of the National Gallery. It will be remembered, doubtless, by many that the Commons Committee, consisting of men so well known as Mr. Stirling, Mr. Labouchere, Mr. Monckton Milnes, Colonel Mure, and others, agreed to eight brief recommendations connected with the Keepership of the National Gallery. They were these:—1. That a system of management by a Board of Trustees should be continued. 2. That no person should in future, in virtue of any office, become a Trustee of the National Gallery. 3. That the Trustees be appointed by the Treasury. 4. That it is expedient that the number of Trustees be diminished as vacancies occur. 5. That the office of Keeper of the Gallery should be abolished. 6. That a salaried Director should be appointed by the Treasury for a definite time, at the expiration of which he may be reappointed. 7. That every recommendation for the purchase of a picture should originate with the Director, and be made in writing to the Trustees. 8. That a fixed sum should be annually proposed to Parliament for the purchase of pictures, and placed at the disposal of the Trustees. The practical good sense of these recommendations was universally admitted as soon as they were divulged; and, though we expect to hear that Mr. Morris Moore, Mr. Coningham, and perhaps one or two more, will complain of the selection of Sir Charles Eastlake as the salaried Director, with one thousand pounds a year, yet we as confidently believe that the selection will meet with the fullest approbation of the British public.

This change for the better, in one half of the building in Trafalgar-square that is dedicated to the Fine Arts, has been accompanied, almost at the same time, by a change for the better in the eastern wing of the building. The assembled thirty-nine Royal Academicians have just elected Mr. E. M. Ward, A.R.A., to be a Royal Academician, with permission to attach the well-known "Esquire" after his name. Mr. Ward, a very able artist (as our pages have often exhibited), has been chosen to succeed a very indifferent artist—the late Mr. J. J. Chalon. In making this selection, the thirty-nine have passed over Mr. Danby, Mr. Patten, Mr. Elmore, and Mr. Sydney Cooper; and, while we implicitly admit the propriety of the selection, we cannot but express that a kind of injustice has been (unintentionally, no doubt) rendered to more than one artist well deserving to wear the ornamental R.A. appended to his name. Mr. Sydney Cooper is said to have run Mr. Ward hard in the election.

The Committee of Inquiry into the Literary Fund has had its first meeting—a full gathering, we understand; and there is every prospect of a Report, and of a call for a special meeting of the subscribing members before the London season of 1855 is over. Some of the elderly members foresee a falling off in the dinner receipts; but we have no such fear, if the fund is only managed with a purpose more erect (not more honest) than it has been for some years past. The committee have taken too seriously Dr. Johnson's famous couplet:—

What various ills the scholar's life assail—
Toil, envy, want, the PATRON, and the gaol.

Forgetting that "patron" was substituted for "garret" to vex Lord Chesterfield. When Johnson was asked why Pope had written a certain line without much individual meaning, the great moralist answered, happily enough, "Why he thought it would vex somebody."

This mention of Pope reminds us of a pleasant rumour accounting for the delay that has occurred in the appearance of Mr. Croker's promised edition of the works of that author. To his mass of unpublished and most important materials, he has recently been enabled to add the unpublished correspondence of the poet with Dr. Arbuthnot, Lord Bathurst, and David Mallet. Another important accession throws curious light on Pope's dealings in the far-famed South-Sea Bubble.

That honest love of emulation which now exists between the English and French will be seen admirably exemplified in the forthcoming National Exhibition at Paris. All our best artists have applied, or are applying, to the possessors of their very best works for permission to send them to Paris; and very liberally, as we hear, have these applications been responded to by the possessors. Stanfield and Roberts, Eastlake and Frost, Leslie and Landseer, Mulready and Ward, Frith and Egg, are all on the eve of sending the choicest specimens of their art to the capital of France. Time, it is said (and no doubt truly), has mellowed some of the works of our living English artists into the rich and enduring condition of old masters. Our school will be seen to advantage, and will stand well.

AN EXTRAORDINARY METAL.—The attention of the Paris Academy of Sciences was, some months since, directed to a discovery made by M. Sainte-Claire Deville, Professor of Chemistry at the Superior Normal School, in conjunction with M. Wohler, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Göttingen, of the metal called *aluminium*. The Emperor, on hearing of it, ordered that every encouragement should be given to utilise the discovery, and some manufactured specimens of this metal will appear at the Exhibition. In a report made to the Emperor by the Minister of Public Instruction, proposing that the two above-named savans shall be promoted to the rank of officers in the Legion of Honour as a reward for their scientific skill, we find the following:—"When this extraordinary metal, light as glass, white and shining as silver, almost as unchangeable as gold, malleable and ductile in the same degree as these precious metals, strong as iron, and which is capable of being worked into any form by casting, by the hammer, and by the file; when this metal, which is found in abundance in the commonest clay, shall have taken its place in the domestic economy and the arts, no astonishment will be felt at the encouragement which your Majesty has given in order to render its extraction easy and less costly. Once more it will be admitted, that everything is connected in science, and that the same wonderful discovery of the decomposition of bodies by the pile, which procured for Davy the grand prize founded by Napoleon I., has led to this not less wonderful discovery of the conversion of potters' clay into a metal which may rival gold and silver in its unchangeableness, and iron by its abundance on the very surface of the ground." The report is followed by a decree making the appointments proposed.

The Chapter Coffee-house, 50, Paternoster-row (closed a few months since) is mentioned in No. 1 of the *Connoisseur*, Jan. 31, 1754, as the resort of "those encouragers of literature, and not the worst judges of merit, the booksellers." Chatterton dates several letters from the "Chapter." The late Alexander Stephens left some reminiscences of the literati and politicians who frequented the Chapter from 1797 to 1805. The box in the north-east corner was called the "Wittenagemot," and was occupied by the Wet Paper Club. Here assembled Dr. Buchan, author of "Domestic Medicine;" Dr. Berdmore, Master of the Charter-house; Walker, the rhetorician; and Dr. Towers, the political writer; Dr. George Fordyce, and Dr. Gower of "the Middlesex," who, with Dr. Buchan, prescribed the Chapter punch; Robinson, King of the Booksellers, and his brother John; Joseph Johnson, the friend of Priestley and Paine, and Cowper and Fuseli; Alexander Chalmers, the workman of the Robinsons; the two Parrys, of the *Courier*, then the organ of Jacobinism; Lowndes, the electrician; Dr. Busby, the writer on music; Jacob, an Alderman and M.P.; Waltham, then Common Councilman; Mr. Blake, the banker, of Lombard-street; Mr. Patterson, a North Briton, who taught Pitt mathematics; Alexander Stephens; and Phillips (afterwards Sir Richard), who here recruited for contributors to his *Monthly Magazine*. The Chapter maintained its reputation for good punch and coffee, scarce pamphlets, and liberal supply of town and country newspapers, until 1854, when it was closed.—*Curiosities of London*.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

LORD ERSKINE.

DAVID MONTAGU ERSKINE, Baron Erskine, of Restormel Castle, in the county of Cornwall, was the eldest son of the great advocate and orator, Thomas, Lord Erskine, Lord Chancellor of England, by his first wife Frances, daughter of Daniel Moore, Esq., M.P. He was born in 1788; and married, first, in January, 1800, Frances (who died the 25th March, 1843), daughter of General Cadwallader, of Philadelphia; secondly, the 29th July, 1843, Ann Bond (who died the 18th April, 1851), daughter of John Francis; and, thirdly, the 21st December, 1852, Anna, widow of Thomas Calderwood Durham, Esq., of Largo and Palton—which lady survives him. His Lordship has had issue by the first marriage only. He succeeded his distinguished father as second Baron, on the 17th November, 1823. His Lordship was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he eventually became a M.A. and L.L.D.; he was called to the bar in 1811. His life, however, was spent, not in the practice of the law, the judicial honours of which so deservedly fell to the share of his father and brother, but in the diplomatic service of his country. He was British Envoy at Washington from 1806 to 1810, and was afterwards Minister from St. James's at the Courts of Wurtemberg and Bavaria. He retired in 1843. Lord Erskine died on the 19th inst. at his residence, Butler's-green, Sussex. He is succeeded by his eldest son, Thomas Americus, some time Attaché at Munich, now third Baron Erskine; who married, the 12th May, 1830, Louisa, daughter of G. Newnham, Esq., of New Timber-place, Sussex, and widow of Thomas Legh, Esq., of Adlington, Cheshire.

SIR EDWARD FRENCH BROMHEAD, BART., OF THURLEY HALL, COUNTY LINCOLN.

THIS Baronet died on the 14th inst. He was the eldest son of Lieut.-General Sir Gonville Bromhead, of Thurlby Hall (created a Baronet in 1806), by Jane, his wife, daughter of Rose, Baroness French, and grandson of Bordenham Bromhead, Esq., a Colonel in the Army, by Frances, his wife, only child of William Gonville, Esq.

Sir Edward was born 26th March, 1789. Never having married, he is succeeded in the Baronetcy by his brother, now Sir Edmund Gonville Bromhead, Bart. The deceased Baronet was M.A., Camb.; F.R.S. of London and Edinburgh, and F.L.S.; and High Steward of the city of Lincoln.

LIEUT.-GENERAL DUFFY, C.B.

LIEUT.-GENERAL JOHN DUFFY, C.B., Colonel of the 8th Regiment of Infantry, died on the 17th inst., at his residence in Jermyn-street. This old and gallant British officer entered his country's service in 1795, and for more than eighteen years from that period was in constant and arduous employment. He was in the West Indies with Abercrombie, in 1796; in Holland in the same year; in the East Indies in 1799; in the campaign in Egypt in 1801; and at the siege of Copenhagen in 1807. He was also with the 43rd Infantry throughout the long Peninsular war; he received a gold medal for Badajoz, and the silver medal for Fuentes d'Onor, Ciudad Rodrigo, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelle, and Nive. He was wounded in the head at Vittoria, and he commanded a storming party at the capture of Ciudad Rodrigo. Lieut.-General Duffy became a Military Companion of the Bath in 1831.

MYLES LYNCH M'DONNELL, ESQ.—This gentleman, whose sudden death occurred recently in Dublin, was the eldest son of Joseph Myles M'Donnell, Esq., of Doon Castle, late M.P. for Mayo; he had only attained his twenty-second year. His loss in the part of the country where the family property was situated will be severely felt by the poor. Though very young, for some years past he had the management of the estate, which passed into his hands pursuant to family arrangements; and his amiable and upright conduct had made him everywhere very popular.

CAPTAIN STRODE.—Captain J. Chetham Strode, of the 14th Regiment, who died at Southill, Somerset, on the 16th ult., of fever, and of an inflammation of the liver (contracted in India), saw during his brief but gallant career, much active service. He was with the 61st Regiment in the Punjab campaign of 1849, was present at the battle of Goojerat, and went with the field force in pursuit of the enemy to the Khyber Pass, for which he obtained a medal and one clasp. He joined the expedition into the Eusufzie country, and was in action with the enemy on the 11th and 14th December, 1849, when he aided in the capture and destruction of the insurgent villages of Saggow, Pullee, Zoomundie, and Sheerkanee. Strode was also with the expedition against the Afriedies, in the Kohat Pass, in February, 1850. This brave and efficient officer was only in the 25th year of his age at the time of his lamented demise. He was the youngest son of Vice-Admiral Sir E. C. Strode, K.C.B., K.C.H.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS TAKEN DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY, MARCH 23.

Month and Day.	Corrected Reading of Barometer at 9 A.M.	Thermometer.	Mean of Temperature of the Day.	Departure of Temperature from Average.	Degrees of Humidity.	Direction of Wind.	Rain in Inches.
Mar. 16	29.522	54.1	36.0	44.1	+ 2.4	92	S.W. 0.15
" 17	29.612	49.5	35.5	42.6	+ 0.9	96	S.W. 0.00
" 18	29.660	51.0	34.0	41.7	— 0.1	85	S.W. 0.08
" 19	29.930	53.5	35.6	45.6	+ 1.7	95	S.W. 0.03
" 20	29.806	58.2	33.0	44.1	+ 2.1	92	E. 0.01
" 21	29.350	46.0	35.5	39.6	— 2.5	96	N.E. 0.00
" 22	28.861	36.0	33.0	34.4	— 7.8	100	N.E. 0.28

Note.—The sign + denotes above the average, and the sign — below the average.

The reading of the barometer increased from 29.52 inches, at the beginning of the week, to 29.61 inches by the 17th; decreased to 29.45 inches by the afternoon of the same day; increased to 29.93 inches by the 19th; and decreased to 28.85 inches by the end of the week. The mean for the week, at the height of eighty-two feet above the level of the sea, was 29.50 inches.

The mean temperature of the week was 41.4°, being 0.5° lower than the average of the same week during thirty-eight years.

The range of temperature during the week was 25.2°, being the difference between the highest and lowest readings of the thermometer on the 20th.

The mean daily range of temperature during the week was 15.1°. The greatest was 25.2° on the 20th, and the least 3° on the 22nd.

Rain fell in five days during the week to the depth of rather more than half an inch.

The weather has been generally dull, the sky overcast, and rain falling frequently. The 20th was fine, and the temperature was high; but on the 21st the weather was again cold, and the 22nd was very cold; snow fell for some time in the morning of this day, and rain, snow, and sleet fell to the depth of 0.3 (three-tenths of an inch) nearly.

Lewisham, March 23, 1855. JAMES GLAISHER.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—In the week ending March 17 the births of 906 boys and of 873 girls (in all 1779 children) were registered within the metropolitan districts. Within the same week the deaths of 1425 persons were registered—a number greater than in the preceding week by 48. The estimated number of deaths for the week, from the average of the preceding ten years, was 1256, so that the mortality exceeded its average by 169. Diseases of the respiratory organs were fatal in 339 cases, whilst the average is 260. Besides these, phthisis numbers 160; hooping-cough, 76; and influenza, 9. The number of deaths in this week show clearly that the consequences of severe weather, and changes of weather, affect the number of deaths, for some time after it has passed away.

THE FOLEY-PLACE MURDER.—Luigi Baranelli, who stands charged with the murder of Joseph Latham, otherwise Lambert, was brought before Mr. Hardwick, at Marlborough-street, on Tuesday, for final examination. The prisoner—who, under the advice of his professional adviser, reserved his defence—was fully committed on the double charge of shooting Joseph Latham, and of shooting at Mary Ann Jeanes, with intent to do her some grievous bodily harm.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR IN DANGER.—An accident, that might have been attended with very mischievous consequences, occurred at the House of Lords on Tuesday. A stone of considerable size was being raised to the parapet of the new works; but, when near its destination, the fastening gave way, and it fell through the ceiling of one of the corridors, and rolling against one of the stained-glass windows at the north-east end of the House, slightly disfigured the feet of one of the female figures. If the impetus had been a very little more, it would have burst through the windows into the gallery of the House. The Lord Chancellor was delivering judgment in an appeal at the moment, and the excitement was considerable until the cause of the noise could be ascertained.

WILLS AND PERSONALTY.—The Most Noble Harriet, Duchess Dowager of Roxburghe, personality £8000, within the province of Canterbury. General the Hon. Thomas Edward Capel, C.B., £14,000. Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart., £80,000. Nathaniel Betton, Esq., of Shrewsbury, £40,000. Rev. James Buckingham, B.C.L., Devon, £14,000. Thomas Roblyn, M.D., Somerset, £10,000; and he has bequeathed to the Bristol Infirmary, Clifton Dispensary, and National School, Fishguard, S.W., £50 each. Mr. Thomas Farr, of Cheltenham, has left to the English College for Training, and the Parochial Infant School (both of Cheltenham), £250 each.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

THE BALTIC FLEET.

The flying squadron having gone, there are now at Spithead 19 pendants under the command-in-chief of Rear-Admiral the Hon. Lt. S. Dundas, C.B., and those 19 ships require only about 600 petty officers and seamen to fill up their full complement. The flying squadron was composed of 7 pendants; the 19 now at Spithead make 26; the full force of the Baltic fleet will include 108 pendants. We shall have 30 screw ships of the line (including the screw guard-ships), and to each of these ships will be attached a screw gun-boat manned with a complement of 33. These alone will count 40 pendants. But all this force will not be ready for at least two months.

Captain Cuning has been selected for the command of one of the batteries. Captain Halstead (late of the *Dauntless*) and Captain Beauchamp Seymour (late of the *Brisk*) will each have the command of one of those formidable ships. They are progressing very rapidly at Blackwall. Gangs of men are employed night and day to complete this new and difficult modern engine of warfare. Whilst the ships are being completed in building and the massive wrought-iron plates are being fitted to the sides, the engineers are busily engaged in fitting the machinery on board.

The General Commanding-in-Chief has directed that for every volunteer received from the militia, by recruiting parties, the regulated sum of 7s. 6d. be paid to the militia sergeant upon final approval.

SEVERAL of the ambulances sent down to Portsmouth some time ago, to assist the wounded to sick quarters, on being landed were found so heavy and rough as to be totally unfit for use. Common street ambulances have been hired in preference.

THE A. B. and C divisions of the New Land Transport Corps, numbering 261 men, under Lieutenant-Commander Addick, arrived at Plymouth on Monday, from Hordfield barracks, Bristol, to embark for the Crimea.

REAR-ADMIRAL BERKELEY, the senior Lord of the Admiralty, accompanied by Mr. Burnley, Accountant-General of the Navy, arrived at Portsmouth on Monday, and went out to the fleet in the *Vivid* yacht, to make arrangements for "paying down" the ships before starting. The fleet was joined on the same day by the *Blenheim*, 60, Captain W. H. Hall; the *Edin.* 16, Captain Wilcox; and the *Basilik*, 6, Commander Jenner. The *Edinburgh*, as Captain Hewlett, commenced to swing for the readjustment of her compasses, prior to joining. No day is yet fixed for the sailing of the main body of the fleet: upwards of 16,000 men in it are now daily visualised at Portsmouth alone, and at the Royal Clarence-yard they are slaughtering as many 210 bullocks per week; they are also loading vessels for Malta, Constantinople, and Balaklava daily. A number of the new class of medical officers, styled "dressers," will forthwith embark in the "flying squadron" for the Downs.

ORDERS have been transmitted from the Horse Guards addressed to the commanding officers of the several cavalry depôts at Manchester, Norwich, York, Hiershill, Exeter, Sheffield, Maidstone, Canterbury, Dorchester, and Newbridge (Ireland), to hold in readiness for embarkation as many disciplined mounted men as may be available to reinforce the following cavalry regiments in the Crimea, viz.:—4th Dragoon Guards, 5th (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) Dragoon Guards, 1st Royal Dragoons, 2nd North British Dragoons (Scots Greys), 4th Light Dragoons, 6th Inniskilling Dragoons, 8th Royal Irish Dragoons, 10th (Prince of Wales's) ditto, 11th (Prince Albert's Own) ditto, 13th Light Dragoons, and 17th Lancers. It is estimated that the depôt of each regiment will be able to supply at least two troops of 80 men each, making a total of 1760 sabres. In addition to the above, the 6th Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers) quartered at Hounslow, and the 15th Hussars, stationed at Exeter, are held in readiness to proceed to the seat of war. Each of these regiments can now muster upwards of 600 sabres. The 12th Lancers, 700 strong, are also on the route for the seat of war from India. The draughts from the depôts, with these three regiments, will make the cavalry reinforcements amount to 2660 sabres. Above 500 horses, for the remounts of the cavalry at present in the Crimea, will proceed in charge of the draughts which will embark early in the ensuing month.

OPENING OF THE CALCUTTA, DELHI, AND LAHORE RAILWAY, BY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA.

The merited sarcasm of the illustrious Burke—that, were the British expelled from the wide-spreading empire of Hindostan, the only traces left of them, and their rule, after the lapse of a century, would be those of the culture and the lion—has ceased to be true: this stigma on England's fame exists no longer.

On the 3rd of February was officially inaugurated the partial opening of one of the most gigantic engineering works ever undertaken by man—a line of Railway, which, with 1350 miles of unbroken length, will bridge the sacred Ganges, the Soane, the Jumna, and the Sutlej; traverse the most fertile tracts of India; connect its most populous and ancient cities with the ocean; open out the inexhaustible wealth and resources of remote, and at present, for commercial purposes, inaccessible districts; ameliorate the condition, weaken the prejudices, and enlarge the minds of millions of the human race; consolidate our power in the East; and finally leave an imperishable monument to the end of time, of the energy and beneficent dominion of the adventurous Saxon.

At an early hour the Armenian Ghaut on the Calcutta side of the river, here about half a mile in width, and the Howrah terminus on the other, were thronged by masses of the native population, whose countenances evinced much pleasure and interest in the spectacle. It is said, that very rarely, except in their religious ceremonies, have they displayed so much gratification and curiosity on any public occasion.

A long arcade, covered with flowers and foliage, led to the water's edge, where two steam-boats, engaged for the occasion, ferried over those having the privilege of admission to the other bank. As far as the eye could reach along the river, large Indian men, with lofty spars, crowded merchantmen of many nations, and native boats, lay moored in long lines up and down the stream. The steamers were adorned with branches, flowers, and flags; as was a leafy arcade, leading up to the station.

About nine o'clock the Marquis of Dalhousie, attended by his staff arrived, announced by a salute of nineteen guns. He was received by Mr. Rowland Macdonald Stephenson, and Mr. George Turnbull—the former, fourteen years since, the projector, and now Managing Director of the Railway; and the latter the Engineer-in-Chief. A prayer was now read by the venerable Bishop of Calcutta, together with appropriate selections from the Scriptures.

The Governor-General remained till the departure of the first train, but ill-health prevented him from being present at the banquet. On the platform were to be seen most of the leading members of the Government and society in Calcutta. They were conveyed in two trains—the first leaving Howrah at twenty minutes to ten a.m., and arriving at Burdwan, where the coal-fields commence, sixty-six miles from Calcutta, at half-past twelve o'clock.

At Burdwan a long arcade of leaves, ornamented with flags, and affording a pleasing shelter from the mid-day sun, led to the spacious tents, where covers were laid for 700 persons.

Grace having been said by the Bishop of Calcutta, the company dispatched an excellent champagne breakfast; after which Mr. R. Macdonald Stephenson gave the following toasts:—"The Queen," "Prince Albert and the Royal Family," "the Governor-General," "the East India Railway Company," "the Engineers, Locomotive Superintendents, and Contractors of the Railway," "the commercial interests of India," "Dr. O'Shaughnessy and the Electric Telegraph," "the Army and Navy."

The Chairman, in replying for the East India Railway Company, stated that, although fourteen years had elapsed since the subject came under semi-official consideration in England, it was but four years since the works were actually commenced. A line, exceeding in length either of the two great lines of England, had been completed and opened—under every disadvantage incident to the construction of works, in a country where a strange language, a trying climate, imperfect means of communication and transport, and other serious drawbacks, had been encountered and overcome—within a considerably less period, and at less than one-fourth of the cost of the two great lines referred to—the London and Birmingham and Great Western railroads. 121 miles of the East Indian Railroad were then complete; 649 miles were under contract, to be completed by 1857; 200 miles were being constructed by the Railway Company; and 380 miles were being surveyed: making a total of 1350 miles.

The first return train started from Burdwan at twenty minutes to four p.m., and arrived at Howrah at twenty minutes to seven. The weather was perfectly fine throughout the day, and the arrangements admirable. At night the terminus and houses near the Ghauts were illuminated.

A DEPOSITORY for Bibles and other religious books, in various languages, is about to be opened in the Frank quarter of Constantinople, as a branch of the similar establishment existing in Stamboul. A committee has been appointed to make the necessary arrangements, and a room has been engaged in the main street of Pera, near the British Consulate. In connection with the book store, it is proposed to provide accommodation for reading a few of the principal English and American newspapers, one or two of the French and Italian journals, and some of the religious and secular periodicals published in Great Britain, America, and on the Continent. Although pecuniary help is expected from one or more of the religious societies at home, whose publications will be offered for sale in this new depository, yet the founding and support of the whole institution must chiefly depend upon local resources.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LEONARD C., Cleveland, Ohio.—The publication of "Loose Leaves of Indian Chess" has been postponed; Mr. Cochran's professional engagements not allowing him leisure to complete the work.
C. F. H., H.M.S. *Vulture*.—1. Your Solution of the Indian Problem is correct. 2. The position shall be examined.
E. C. H.—1. There is no difference. 2. The small gummed Chess figures are far more trouble than they are worth. 3. Your Solution is correct.
A. READER, Richmond.—You may procure a book of the "Rules for Playing Double Chess" either of Leuchars (Piccadilly) or Sherwin (Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields), makers of the men and boards for this particular game.
M. ALLEY, France, is thanked for his obliging communication.
C. W., Sunbury.—They shall be reported on shortly.
TOM OF COVENTRY.—The great Chess Meeting at Leamington is appointed to take place on the 26th, 27th, and 28th of June.
DELTA, Scotland.—We shall be glad to hear the result of your exertions.
F. R.—The two last, numbered respectively 64 and 66, are but indifferent.
C. W., M. N. O.—They want point, and are much too easy.
W. C. C.—No. 3 forms a tolerable Enigma. The other is extremely simple.
A. Z. B. V.—Promising, but not quite up to our standard.
PHILO.—See our Solution.
H. H., Liverpool.—We answered this question last week.
MILQ.—Your Solution of the Indian Problem is correct.
T. P. C., Chudleigh.—You can procure blank Chess diagrams of Messrs. Kent, publishers, 52, Paternoster-row. The best, we believe, are 2s. 6d. per hundred.
R. M. J.—1. They are both excellent; but Bilguer's (Second Edition, 1842) is the more comprehensive. 2. The former is in two volumes; the price of each about 12s.
SCOTLAND.—All we know of the matter is, that a match has been talked of between Herr Schulten, who is now permanently resident at Aix-la-Chapelle, and Mr. F. Deacon, of Brugues. Nothing, we believe, has been, as yet, definitely settled.
F. R. O.—You must refer to some authority now obsolete. All modern writers concur in declaring Stalemate a Drawn Game.
G. H.; DEREYON; and Others.—Before attempting to solve any of the curious and ancient Problems presented in Dr. Forbes' article on Oriental Chess, see our remarks in the Number for Feb. 10th on the old moves and powers of the Pieces.
DEREYON, G. Mc G., W. C. C., W. M. W., T. K., S. W., F. T., of Derby.—The Solutions of Mr. Bolton's and the Indian Problem are correct.
EX. COLL., Oxford.—A second Queen can be claimed, although the first be on the board.
T. K.—It shall be reported on in our next.
C. F. H.—A very elegant little article, but we have already published it.
JEAN JACQUES.—The Paris Chess periodical *La Revue*, died with its chief editor, Kicseritzky. We are glad to hear that there is a prospect of its being re-established under auspices which will secure to it the patronage and support of the most eminent players of Europe. The editorship, it is understood, will be intrusted to M. de Riviere, the present Honorary Secretary of the Paris "Cercle des Echecs."
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 577, by J. M. de Sherburn, M.D., Alpha, S. P. Q. R., D. D., are correct.
SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 578, by A. Z., M.P., Chirarg, Paris, E. H. M.; F. R., of Norwich; Felix, Derevon, F. T., Derby; J. A. M., Fakenham, D. D., Sharple, Septimus, P. P. T., Omega, Verjulo, Tartar, Perseus, W. M. W., Corvus, Corbett, J., Stonehouse, T. K., J. T., Blackburn, are correct.
SOLUTIONS OF EXENIGMA, by Sharple, W. M. W., Derevon, M. T. W., F. S. A., Cantab, Omicron, P. T., Camelot, Old Farm, D. D., are correct. All others are wrong.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 576.

WHITE. BLACK.
1. Q to K 3rd Kt takes Q (a)
2. R checks K takes Kt
3. B to Q 3rd—Mate.

(a) If B takes R, the Q checks at Q 3rd, and then gives Mate. If R takes Kt, the B checks at Q 6th, and Q mates next move. If R plays to K 3rd, the Q checks at Q 3rd; and the R then mates. And, finally, if R is played to K B 4th, the Kt gives check at Q B 3rd, and the B mates.

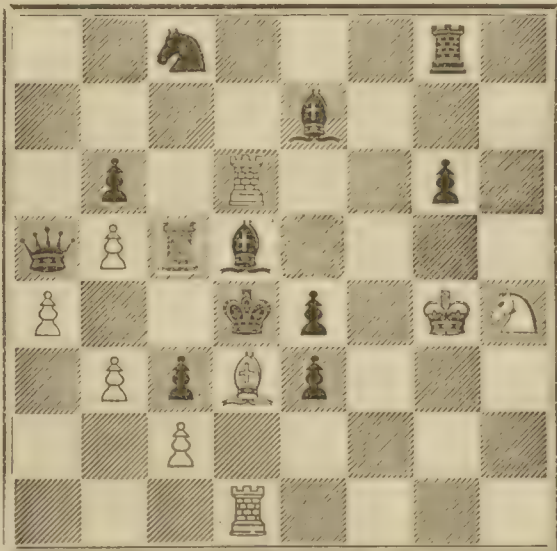
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 577.

WHITE. BLACK. WHITE. BLACK.
1. Q to Q R 4th (ch) K takes R 3. Q to Q R 4th (ch) K takes Kt
2. Kt to Q Kt 2nd K to Q Kt 6th 4. R to Q R sq K takes R (best)
(dis. ch) 5. Q to Q B 7th—and mates next move.

PROBLEM No. 579.

This curious and ingenious termination of a game we owe to E. B. C. of Hoboken, U.S.

BLACK.



White to play, and draw the game.

CHESS IN PARIS.

We have this week the pleasure of presenting a Game, hitherto unpublished, played shortly before his death by the celebrated Livonian Professor KIESERITZKY, with M. JOURNOU, an accomplished amateur of the Paris Chess circle.

(Evans' Gambit.)

WHITE (M. J.)	BLACK (M. K.)	WHITE (M. J.)	BLACK (M. K.)
1. P to K 4th	P to K 4th	26. Q R to K sq	K to B 2nd
2. K Kt to K B 3rd	Q Kt to Q B 3rd	27. Kt to K 2nd	Kt to K 5th
3. K B to Q B 4th	K B to Q B 4th	28. Kt to K Kt 3rd	P to K 4th
4. P to Q Kt 4th	K B takes Kt P	29. Kt takes Kt	P takes Kt
5. P to Q B 3rd	K B to Q 3rd (a)	30. P takes P	K R takes P
6. P to Q 4th	Q to K 2nd	31. B to Q Kt 2nd	K R to K 3rd
7. Castles	K Kt to K B 3rd	32. K R to K 2nd (c)	P to Q Kt 4th
8. K Kt to his 5th	Castles	33. P to K B 3rd	Q R to K sq
9. P to K B 4th	K P takes K B P	34. K to R 2nd	P to Q Kt 4th
10. P to K 5th	B takes P	35. K to Kt 3rd	P to Q B 4th
11. P takes B	Q to Q B 4th (ch)	36. K to B 4th	P to Q B 5th
12. K to R sq	Q Kt takes P	37. R takes K P	P to K Kt 4th (ch)
13. K B to K 2nd	Q Kt to K Kt 3rd	38. K to B 5th	R takes R
14. K Kt to K R 3rd	P to Q 3rd	39. R takes R	K to his 3rd
15. Kt takes P	B to K 3rd	40. K takes R	P to Q Kt 5th
16. Q to Q 4th	Q takes Q	41. P to K Kt 4th	P to Kt 5th
17. P takes Q	Q R to K sq (b)	42. P to Q R 3rd (d)	K to Q 3rd
18. Q Kt to Q B 3rd	P to Q B 3rd	43. B to K B 6th	P to K R 3rd
19. Q B to Q R 3rd	Q R to Q sq	44. B to K Kt 7th	K to Q B 3rd
20. Kt takes B	P takes Kt	45. B takes P	K to Kt 4th
21. K B to Q B 4th	K R to K sq	46. K to Q 3rd	P to Kt 15th (ch)
22. K R to K sq	P to Q 4th	47. K to Q B 2nd	P takes P
23. K B to Q 3rd	K to B 2nd	48. B takes P	P to Q R 7th
24. B takes Kt (ch)	K takes B	49. B to K B 6th	
25. K R to K 3rd	P to Q Kt 3rd		And Black surrenders.

(a) With all his fine genius and extraordinary knowledge of the game, Kieseritzky was the most wary and circumspect of players. It was this and his constitutional timidity, perhaps, which prevented his occupying the highest place amongst the chess masters of the day. In his Openings he delighted in all sorts of odd, out-of-the-way manoeuvring. In his End Games, when the road to victory lay plain and direct before him, he would turn aside as if from sheer wantonness, and lose himself in some intricate maze, while his opponent took time and heart and reason to the long-desired goal. These eccentricities have been set down to an obliquity of mind. We are disposed to attribute them in part, at least, to another cause. He entertained a great repugnance to giving odds; and, as his opponents were for the most part immeasurably inferior to him both in skill and bookish lore, he could of course afford, when playing "even" with them, to risk a good deal. Of what import was the loss of a few moves or of two or three Pawns to one who felt he was a Rook stronger than his adversary? It was this, we suspect, that he acquired that fondness for rash attacks, and yet would defend himself with his game, and told against him so terribly when he came to cope with more meretricious rivals.

(b) The move in the text was one of his original, and most brilliant, games.
(c) He should rather have played K R to K sq.
(d) A sage precaution against Black's occupying this rank with his Q Rook.
(e) This and the succeeding moves on White's side are very cleverly played.

A SOMNOLENT MEMBER.—After the body of the House of Commons was cleared on Tuesday evening, some amusement was caused to the tellers and the doorkeepers by the discovery of a member asleep in the gallery. The Earl of Mulgrave called out from the floor of the House, "Hi! wake up!" but without effect; the honourable member's slumbers were too profound to be lightly disturbed, and he was only brought to a sense of his undignified position by a gentle shake on the shoulder from one of the doorkeepers. The honourable gentleman, at once appreciating the situation, jumped up, and hastily quitted the gallery.

THE SILENT MEMBER.—No. IX.

THIS week has been, as it were, cut in two by the Fast-day, which has given rise to other divisions besides those of time, for there has been much division of opinion as how it ought to have been kept, or whether it ought to have been kept at all, except by those whose sins of omission and of commission had been the cause of a Fast-day having been appointed. It is to be regretted that a day set apart for religious observances should have been made the subject of a war of opinion which has been waged with so much bitterness, that the parties to it, instead of entering into the spirit of a Fast-day by humbling themselves, have seemed to throw all their energies into the attempt to humiliate each other. Now, that it is all over, let us hope that it was, on the whole, observed in such a manner as to aid the professed object with which it was proposed, and that it may have awakened those in authority to a due sense of the sin of reducing a powerful nation to the condition from which we have asked Providence to rescue us.

The Sunday question has this week undergone a discussion in the House of Commons, with a result that will disappoint some and satisfy others; for the proposal to open some of the national exhibitions on Sunday afternoon has been negatived by a large majority. The subject is beset with difficulties; for, though in these days few would deny that a portion of Sunday might be well appropriated to harmless recreation by those who labour all the rest of the week, there are still fewer who would wish this advantage to be obtained by making Sunday a working day for a large number of persons whose employment would be necessary to provide for the recreation of others. Perhaps the better course to be pursued by those who advocate the harmless amusement of the masses, is to urge the adoption of shorter hours of labour on the working days rather than the establishment of any amusements on Sunday, which would lead to the loss of that day as a day of rest, to any considerable portion of the community. Though an English Sunday may be rather dull, there are not many of us who would wish to see it converted into a Continental Sunday—of which, however, there is not much fear while the national feeling and temperament remain the same as they are at present. Individually, I would like to see the British Museum, the National Gallery, the Crystal Palace, and other places of an amusing and elevating tendency open on the Sunday afternoon; but I am told that "if we once begin, we shall not know where to stop"—an argument which, I confess, appears to me always absurd and contemptible. Everything good might be stopped—or rather might never be commenced—if this principle were adopted; for there is nothing, however excellent, which may not be carried too far, if we do not know where to stop. And that is precisely the knowledge which we are morally bound to acquire. We might as well say we could not venture to light a fire, lest from "not knowing where to stop," we burn down the house; or we might adopt the same argument with regard to the use of everything, —for there is nothing which, if we do not know where to stop, might not, by abuse or excess, become a source of injury. In all cases where the public good is concerned it is the duty of Government to find out where to draw the line—and draw it accordingly. It might be too much to expect the extreme of nicety in the performance of this rather difficult operation; but when there is a very large minority in favour of any proposition, we may be sure that the line is not drawn so near as it might be to the point that is most generally desired.

If the Vienna Conference proceeds as slowly as diplomatic negotiations usually do, it will be some time before the Colonial Secretary is at leisure to attend to the affairs of the Colonies. Perhaps it is felt by the Government that distant possessions are appropriately presided over by a distant Minister; and that, as any grievance, to be remedied at home, must travel some thousands of miles before it can be heard, there is not much additional lardship in dispatching it on a second trip, or letting it rest after its journey till the proper authority returns home from the Continent. Besides, it does not seem that the absence of the Minister can cause more delay than if he were at his post; for a draught constitution which arrived from the colony of Victoria on the 31st of May, last year—when the Duke of Newcastle was "at home" as Colonial Secretary, before he began to be "not at home" at the War-office—is still in that condition which precludes Sir George Grey from giving a "pledge" as to when it will be "considered." Perhaps, if the recent outbreaks had continued, we should have heard that "something must be done forthwith;" but as the colonists have happily restored order among themselves, and got rid of a most obnoxious Colonial Minister, sent out to them by the Colonial-office two years ago, there will be nothing to be done but to see what valuable appointments remain to be filled up from home, and let matters take their chance till next Session.

The weather continues to be the favourite topic of Lord Raglan, and the subject has been taken by the author of the telegraphic despatches; from one of which we learn that "a bright moon impeded operations by night"—an effect that seems rather remarkable. If the moon puts a stop to everything by night, the sun must *a fortiori* have the same effect by day, and thus, between the sun and the moon, everything must necessarily be at a dead stand-still. It is to be hoped that the telegraph is in error in announcing that the British army is "moon-struck," though there is reason to believe that some of its heads have been for some time in that unhappy condition.

Some year or two ago there was a good deal of talk, followed by a conversation in the House of Commons, about the alleged committal of a person to prison for an extra month, for having called a policeman a pig at the Middlesex or Westminster Sessions. Many persons thought the penalty rather severe for an offence unknown to the statute-book; but what will be thought of a recent sentence of the Lord Mayor of London, who is reported to have given a pickpocket an additional month of imprisonment and hard labour—not because he called anybody any name, but because he refused to call himself any name—at the Mansion-house. "Prisoner," said the Lord Mayor, "I give you the utmost punishment I can give you—three months, with hard labour. If you had given your name I would have given you no more than two months." If this is a correct version of what occurred, it is evident that a man is to be imprisoned one month, with hard labour, for not giving his name—a state of things I beg to recommend to the attention of the same member of Parliament whose curiosity impelled him to ask by what law the calling a policeman a "pig" is punishable with imprisonment? The statute under which a person is liable to a month's imprisonment for not giving his name must be a still more remarkable object, and if any amount of research can bring it to light, the sooner the discovery is made the better, in order that such a law may be repealed as quickly as possible. Perhaps, if the Lord Mayor had been satisfied with giving the "nameless one" the additional month, it might have been inferred that there is some old law in some old corner of our code, to justify, or rather to legalise, his Lordship's act; but this presumption is negatived when we find a reason adduced, instead of an Act of Parliament quoted, in support of the sentence. "If," said the Lord Mayor to the prisoner, "you had been at all respectable, you would have given your name." But this is a conclusion to which I am not disposed to jump hand in hand with the Chief Magistrate. It does not seem to have occurred to the Lord Mayoral mind that the accused, without being "at all respectable," might have given any body else's name instead of his own; and as the former would have served his purpose as well as the latter—inasmuch as Jones or Jenkins would have been quite as satisfactory to the Lord Mayor as Smith or Brown—the withholding of a name is rather in favour of the prisoner's respectability than otherwise.

A tragical scene that occurred the other day at Marlborough-street, when a Chinaman charged with begging cut his throat in the court with a knife he had in his possession, suggests some reflections on the propriety of searching all persons that are taken into custody. Some of the Judges have condemned the practice with more or less of declamation on the sacredness of the liberty of the subject—which liberty, it must be remembered, being already taken away by the act of arrest, forms, in reality, no part of the subject for discussion. The question simply is, whether it would not be safer for themselves and others that all persons in custody should be required to give up (it might be, except in cases of felony, to any one they might think proper) whatever they may happen to have about them. The sacredness of the person, which some of the judges so eloquently talk about, is gone as far as it can go, when a man becomes a prisoner, and therefore it is only the sacredness of the pocket which is the object of so much jealousy. When we recollect that a missile has been sometimes sent from a prisoner in the dock towards a judicial head—to say nothing of cases of violence committed on themselves and each other by persons in custody, and of robberies perpetrated in prison cells—it would seem to be as much for the good of prisoners themselves as of those who have to deal with them that all means of mischief should be carefully taken away from them.



EMBARKATION OF THE WILTSHIRE MILITIA, AT PORTSMOUTH.

THE ROYAL WILTS MILITIA.

On Friday (last week) the Dockyard at Portsmouth presented a very animated appearance, during the embarkation of the Royal Wilts Militia on board the General Screw Steam Company's ship *Cresus*, for Corfu. They go out, under the orders of Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Methuen, of the following strength:—24 officers, 36 sergeants, 30 corporals, and 600 rank and file. The regiment is in splendid condition. The men marched down to the Dockyard from their barracks, accompanied by their own excellent band and that of the South Lincoln Militia, who have just been quartered in Portsmouth. The men went on board in excellent order, not a single case of drunkenness occurring.

The accommodation on board is very complete, and from the size of the vessel and her being specially adapted for a large number of passengers, the men anticipate a pleasant and speedy voyage.

Four officers and 128 non-commissioned officers and men of the 20th Foot, and four officers and 128 non-commissioned officers and men of the 95th Foot, also embarked on board the *Cresus*, for Malta, to join the reserve of Lord Raglan's army there. The *Cresus* sailed on Saturday morning. In the second illustration, the fine ship is shown leaving the harbour. Our Artist has, in his sketch, shown in the distance, H.M.S. *Reis-*

tance; on board which, on Thursday evening, the following other draughts sent down by railway, embarked for Malta, to join the reserve there:—5 officers and 128 non-commissioned officers and men of the 42nd Highlanders; 2 officers and 65 non-commissioned officers and men of the 46th Foot; 4 officers and 128 non-commissioned officers and men of the 79th Highlanders; 3 officers and 128 non-commissioned officers and men of the 93rd Highlanders; and 4 officers and 128 non-commissioned officers and men of the 97th Foot.

RECEPTION OF THE HON. MAJOR FEILDING, AT NEWNHAM.

The villages of Pailton and Monk Kirby, and Newnham Hall, the seat of the Earl of Denbigh, have recently been the scene of the impressive welcome of his Lordship's son, the Hon. Percy Feilding, Major in the Guards, who was severely wounded at the battle of Inkerman. The Earl and his family are absent in Paris; but no sooner had it become known that Major Feilding was about to sojourn for a short time at Newnham, than the tenantry of his father resolved to convey to the gallant soldier an expression of affectionate sympathy, and hearty congratulation upon his return.

On the morning of the 1st inst., at about twelve o'clock, the tenantry and other neighbouring gentlemen, well mounted, began to arrive at Pailton; and by one o'clock about fifty of them proceeded on the Harborough-road and met the carriage which had been sent to convey Major Feilding from the Rugby Station. The Major sat in company with his uncle, Colonel Feilding. The horsemen halted and loudly cheered; after which they formed a double line, and entered Pailton in the following order:—A large union-jack, French and Turkish flags, carried by three gentlemen on horseback; the Lutterworth brass band; fifty horsemen; another union-jack and flags carried by footmen; the Major's carriage, passing through a beautiful evergreen arch, in the centre of which was inserted a pink and white device, on which was inscribed on one side "P. F. Welcome," and on the other, "The Queen, God bless her." The whole party formed a circle before the Rev. E. Everett's house, where the Royal Standard, belonging to Captain Tryon, was hoisted, the band playing "God Save the Queen." After three hearty cheers, the procession moved on towards Kirby, and entered that village while the bells were ringing, and the band playing in good style "See the Conquering Hero Comes." The horsemen again formed a circle in front of garlands suspended from a fine oak-tree, in the centre of which was the inscription "Honour the Brave." Over this was the family crest surmounted by a large Union



"THE CRESUS" LEAVING PORTSMOUTH HARBOUR, WITH THE WILTSHIRE MILITIA ON BOARD.



RECEPTION OF THE HON. MAJOR FEILDING, AT NEWNHAM HALL, ON HIS RETURN FROM THE CRIMEA.

Jack, and French and Turkish flags floating on each side. Here the horses were detached, and the carriage was drawn by about thirty men. A little further on was a white streamer thrown across the street, bearing the inscription, "Better health and long life to Major Feilding." This was taken down and carried before the carriage. At the park gate was another arch of evergreens, on which was the inscription, "Welcome Home." The procession again halted while about two hundred children belonging to the Pailton and Kirby schools sang "See the Conquering Hero Comes." At the entrance to the Court was a double arch of evergreens, with the inscription, "Long Live our Noble Patron;" and on the reverse the words "Alma and Inkerman," surmounted by a flag originally belonging to the Guards. On the carriage being drawn up to the hall door, three cheers were given for the Major; after which the Rev. E. Bromfield, the clergyman of the parish, read a congratulatory address; to which the Major feelingly replied, concluding with these words:—"While I feel grateful to those who have showed by their presence the interest

they feel in my welfare, and who have mingled their prayers with my own while I have been engaged in the war, I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude to God, who had mercifully preserved me while in circumstances of danger upon the battle-field." The Major was again cheered. Three cheers were also given for "The Queen," "The Army and Navy," "The Earl of Denbigh," "Old England, the Land of the Free," "Our brave Allies, the French," &c.

The Major looked exceedingly well, considering the fatigue and suffering he had passed through; and, when he left his carriage, he walked among his friends with the aid of two sticks. We wish the brave young Major a speedy restoration to perfect health.

by Mr. C. Kean's company. The performance has so little story or incident that the title conveys all the interest which the piece embraces. In acting it becomes a sort of brief spectacle, in which the accompanying scene is the principal feature. But the spectacle is not of the ordinary kind; it consists not of the ordinary gew-gaws of the stage, but is composed of the chief female beauty of the theatre, which, whether collectively or individually, is certainly striking. The Misses Ternan, Leclercq, Heath, and Murray are the illustrators of the poetic ideal; and, by the grace of their movements and the cheerfulness of their general carriage, they contrive an imposing *ensemble*, the effect of which has an innocent charm that must prove attractive to the drawing-room audience of the stalls and dress circle at a fashionable theatre. The whole is an elegant and tasteful entertainment, which is not only amusing, but is calculated to cultivate an appreciation for accomplishments which, while "they make the virtuous still more virtuous," add a spirit to life, and give a stimulus to healthful and benevolent habits.

"A GAME OF ROMPS," AT THE PRINCESS' THEATRE.

We this week give an Illustration of Madame Girardin's poem, as acted



SCENE FROM THE NEW FARCE OF "A GAME OF ROMPS," AT THE PRINCESS' THEATRE.

MUSIC.

GRISI and MARIO have returned to London, after their six months' sojourn in the United States. Their last appearance was in New York a few weeks ago, when Mr. Hackett, the *entrepreneur*, informed the public that, after paying Grisi and Mario their stipulated terms (£17,000 sterling, besides expenses of living and travelling), he himself had been a great gainer by the speculation—his net profits amounted to 20,000 dollars. This sets the question at rest as to the success of these great artists in America. Having amassed an immense fortune, they will now, it is said, retire to their estate in the neighbourhood of Florence. Meanwhile, however, it is believed (though the fact is not positively known) that Mario will appear during the ensuing season at the Royal Italian Opera.

Our sedate neighbours, the Dutch, have been smitten with the Lind-fever, which now rages among them as violently as it did in England. It appears that Madame Goldschmidt has resumed professional life for a time, in order to raise a fund for endowing a hospital in Stockholm. She is now giving a series of concerts for the sufferers from the late disastrous inundations in Guelderland and Brabant. The first took place a few days ago at Amsterdam, and produced a clear profit of about £400 sterling. When she appeared in the concert-room, the audience rose *en masse*, with demonstrations of the utmost enthusiasm. At the conclusion the band struck up the Swedish National Anthem, and six children belonging to the most distinguished families of the city advanced towards Jenny Lind, and presented her with a garland, and a testimonial of gratitude written in the Swedish and Dutch languages. Her vocal powers and captivating qualities are described as undiminished. We regret to add that we are able, on unquestionable authority, to give a positive contradiction to the statement, which has appeared in several papers, that she is about to revisit England. She has no such intention, at least this season.

THE THEATRES.

HAYMARKET.—A new Spanish ballet has been produced at this theatre, in which Senora Perea Nena and Senor Marcos Diaz display their usual merits. It is entitled "Una Noche de Fiesta en Sevilla," and leads off the evening, which still concludes with "The Galician Fete." The scene of the new ballet is laid near Seville, by moonlight, and the subject consists of villagers and gipsies dancing—in part very wild in character; but the Perea Nena eclipses all other *dansesuses*, and entrances two cavaliers, who contend for her preference, which, however, she does not declare. The whole affair is exceedingly elegant, as well as vivacious. It will increase the reputation of the corps.

LYCEUM.—"A Cozy Couple"—a new, and, it is said, an "original" piece—was produced on Thursday week. It is a neat conversation drama, turning not upon a change of incident but of mind—a picture, in a word, of domestic felicity abruptly disturbed by an old acquaintance recently returned from foreign travel. His glowing statements operate upon the husband, and induce him to propose a temporary separation, in order that he may accompany his old friend and go abroad for a while. The distress of the wife is so great that the friend is moved to compassion; and, by reversing the picture, he contrives to disgust his infatuated victim with the project he had previously recommended. The merits of this piece, however, have not, it would appear, availed to restore the prosperity of the house—from the management of which it is stated that Mr. Mathews intends shortly to retire.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

ALTHOUGH its sister pursuits have been in nowise affected by the war, it cannot be denied that the war has acted very prejudicially on the prospects of racing. The January entries were considerably below the average; speculation at Tattersall's has for some months back been very feeble; and lessees of grand stands will have to mourn over sad deficiencies, if their ticket sellers do not find more customers than they have had at the early spring meetings. Still the array of race-horses at present in training is, numerically, very strong. The four-year-olds, &c., are headed by the hitherto invincible Virago; and include Muscovite, Kataplan, Andover, The Hermit, Meteora, Acrobat, Ivan, Knight of St. George, and Scythian—whose forms are quite near enough to create no small amount of speculation whenever they meet over a Cup course. We fancy that Ivan will prove the best of the lot, and make matters as unpleasant to Virago as he did last year at York. Two-year-olds of last season were all so exceedingly moderate (except it be Nettle) that at this present moment the Derby may be said to be anybody's race. We rather incline to Rifleman, but we should be glad to hear that he was placed in the hands of a man like Harlock, as a final preparation in a small private training stable does not generally bode luck to a first favourite. "The Squire" looks confidently forward to victory both at Epsom and Doncaster, but the public will be unable to gauge these hopes till Claret nears the Bushes in the Two Thousand Guineas. The two-year-olds of the present season are likely to be as good as their predecessors were; and the subsequent running of Flyaway, who was bought for 155 guineas at the last Royal sale, shows that the forms of her conquerors, Wandering Willie, Gamster, and the Bold Buccleuch, are as hopeful as the race in which they were pitted.

No great interest attaches to the Northampton Meeting, which will come off on Tuesday and Wednesday next. The Northamptonshire Handicap will be run on the first day; but there has been as yet very little betting on it, although Meteora has been slightly fancied in some quarters. Nevertheless, her clever victory at York last year hardly convinces us that she will be at home over two such difficult miles as the Stakes course here presents. Lord Spencer's Plate, and the Althorp Park Stakes, are the great features of the second day. Croxton Park carries on the game on Thursday and Friday; but, after so many weeks of frost, the Meltonians are hardly likely to consider it the *finale* of the Melton season, as they have hitherto been wont.

Steeplechasing will attract its crowds at Birmingham and Wansford on Monday, and at Louth and Beccford on Tuesday. The Yorkshiresmen have also a day's sport at Tadcaster on Wednesday; while Hexham and Diss are the fixtures for Thursday; and the Liverpool Hunt muster for the same purpose at Hoylake on Saturday. Although "the Marquis" has not set over any of his stud, his brother Irishmen have carried everything before them this spring: Seaman and Augustine are both the property of Mr. A. McDonough, and the former is the horse on which Mrs. M.D. rode in her recent steeplechase match.

Hares and coursing secretaries are alike lively after their holiday, and meeting follows meeting in quick succession. The following are the principal ones in the ensuing week, to wit—Abington, on Monday, &c.; Mountainstown (Meath), on Monday and Tuesday; North Union, on Tuesday and Wednesday; and Bigger (open), on Wednesday, &c.; hence the Scotch sportsmen, who mourned sadly over the defeat of their elegant little Scotland-yet, in the run-up with the impetuous dashing Judge at Alton, will have their hands especially full.

The Harrow and Uxendon steeplechases are to be united, and the lovers of that sport in the metropolis are promised an afternoon of it on Thursday week. Racing news generally is very scanty; but it will be observed that Lord Anglesey (whose 1200 guinea Derby colt, Strood, is a very doubtful purchase) has begun the season well with Nabob and Astrologus; the latter is own brother to Augur (who is much liked in Lincolnshire), and was bought as a yearling at Mr. Jacques' York sale.

ADAMS'S ORRERY, AT THE ADELPHI THEATRE.—In Passion Week Mr. C. H. Adams will present his Orrery and deliver his annual Lecture on Astronomy, for the twenty-fifth time in the metropolis. The lecturer's success for a quarter of a century is of itself a sufficient recommendation; and we cordially recommend all who desire to obtain a very lasting impression of the most sublime of all sciences to pay Mr. Adams a visit at the Adelphi Theatre during his now very short season. The lecturer illustrates the numerous additions made to our planetary system by the recent discoveries of Hind, Lassell, and others.

ROYAL LONDON YACHT CLUB.—On Monday evening last a numerous meeting of the members of this club took place at their rooms, Caledonian Hotel, Adelphi, to present their Commodore (James Goodson, Esq.) with a magnificent silver *épergne* and salver, valued at 150 guineas, as a slight token of the estimation and respect in which himself and his services are held by every member of the club. The ceremony of presentation was performed by Mr. Tress, one of the committee, who, in a graceful and complimentary address, called attention to the flourishing state of the club, numbering nearly 400 members, and among them many gentlemen of high position and influence, both here and abroad; and mainly indebted for that success to the exertions, management, and uniformly gentlemanly bearing of their respected Commodore. Mr. Goodson, in returning thanks for the honour they had conferred upon him, most feelingly alluded to the assistance he had received from their late lamented Rear-Commodore and the other officers, in carrying out his efforts for the success of the club. Both the address and reply were received with the greatest enthusiasm. Captain Andrews and George Eagle, Esq., addressed the members on their re-election as Vice-Commodore and Treasurer; and the harmony of the occasion was kept up till a late hour.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

NEW LONDON CHURCHES.—Several new churches are about being commenced in the metropolitan district, and others are so far advanced as to be nearly ready for consecration. At Paddington three new churches are to be at once commenced, the Bishop of London having given £1000 towards that object. In Coventry-street, Haymarket, between Rupert-street and Princes-street, a church is to be erected; her Majesty the Queen having subscribed £500, and the Bishop of London £1000 for that purpose. Three new churches are to be erected in Clerkenwell; an influential committee, of which the Earl of Shaftesbury is at the head, having been formed to raise the necessary funds. In the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, a large church is to be erected, at the sole expense of Mr. J. G. Hubbard, the Governor of the Bank of England, a site having been given by Lord Leigh. At Lincolns Church a church is to be built at the sole expense of Mr. William Cotton. "A Merchant," whose name has not transpired, has volunteered to build and endow a church in London, in any spot the Bishop may point out. A committee, consisting of Earl Nelson, Earl Grosvenor, M.P., Lord Haddo, M.P., Lord R. Grosvenor, M.P., Sir W. R. Farquhar, Bart., Vice-Chancellor Sir Page Wood, Mr. A. J. B. Hope, and other gentlemen, has been formed for securing the erection of additional churches in St. Pancras, Shoreditch, Whitechapel, and other densely-populated districts. Amongst the new churches which are approaching completion are St. Matthew's Church, Oakley-square; St. Luke's, Nutford-place; All Saints, Notting-hill; St. Andrew's Church, Victoria-street, Westminster; All Saints, Margaret-street, Cavendish-square; and one at Linchouse, built at the sole expense of Mr. Alderman Cubitt, M.P.

DESULTORY WARFARE.—Our batteries would never think of firing at small scattered parties if the enemy's batteries and sharpshooters did not themselves set the example. The least glimpse being caught of any of our men is sufficient to call forth a shower of rifle bullets. I am told that a newly-arrived regiment (the 59th, I believe), going on duty in the trenches for the first time, lost in the course of an hour three men, who were incautious enough to peep over the parapet, in order to have a good look at Sebastopol. In dark nights, when the flash of his rifle shows the position of the sharpshooter distinctly, we have many ruses for drawing forth their fire and paying them heavily in return. I believe that for one man whom the French lose by the enemy's rifles, we lose at least ten, in consequence of the reckless way in which our men expose themselves to their lurking antagonists. In such encounters nothing seems to teach the English soldier the necessity for as much secrecy, craft, and caution as in Indian warfare. In skirmishing, the more a French Chasseur is fired at the closer he lies to the ground, while our men not unfrequently get annoyed at the "ping, ping," of the Minie balls as they pass over their place of concealment, and either raise their heads or stand upright to try to get a sight of their assailants. This movement is generally fatal.—*Letter from the Camp.*

MONETARY TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

(From our City Correspondent.)

Notwithstanding that money has been unusually plentiful—the advanced period of the quarter considered, and with the transfer-books closed—and that the arrivals of bullion have been on a very extensive scale, great inactivity has prevailed in the Consol Market, and prices have shown a tendency to give way. The leading causes of the depression are—first, the slow progress of the Conference now assembled at Vienna towards peace; and, secondly, the want of all information as regards the Chancellor's Budget. The question now agitating the minds of both *Bulls* and *Bears* is, shall we have a loan in the Stock Exchange, or shall we have fresh taxes? Until, therefore, the determination of the Chancellor on this head, and the result of the Conference, are known, any serious changes in the price of Consols, cannot be expected.

The imports of bullion, since we last wrote, have been about £600,000 from Australia, £27,000 from the Peninsula, £223,000 from New York, and £1,169,075 dollars from the West Indies, Mexico, &c. The shipments have been principally confined to £52,500, mostly in silver, to India, China, &c. The foreign exchanges being favourable, there is now no profit on the export of gold from this country; and the stock in the Bank of England is now steadily on the increase. In the event of the exchanges continuing at about present rates during the next three or four weeks, the supply of gold in the Bank by the first week in May will be nearly or quite £15,000,000 sterling. There is now fully £500,000 in gold still on passage from Australia; and we have every reason to anticipate steady importations from New York in the period just alluded to.

On Monday, no material change took place in Consols. The three per Cents marked 93½ to 93 for money, and 93½ to 94 for the Account. Long Annuities, 1859, were 4½. India Bonds, 11s.; Exchequer-bills, 9s. to 9s. prem.; Exchequer Bonds, 1858, were 99½; Ditto, 1859, 99½. The market on Tuesday was dull and drooping. The three per Cents, for transfer, were done at 94½, down to 92½; the New Two-and-a-Half per Cents, 74½; and Consols, for Account, 93½ to 92½. India Bonds were 11s.; Exchequer Bills, 6s. to 9s. prem.; India Stock, 22½; Bank Stock, for the Account, 21½; Exchequer Bonds, 1858, 99½. Wednesday was observed as a close holiday. The market on Thursday was very inanimate, but rather higher than it closed on Tuesday. Consols were 92½ to 92½ for transfer, and 92½ to 93 for the Account. Exchequer Bills were 6s. to 9s. prem.; and Exchequer Bonds, 99½.

The Foreign House has been dull, yet no material change has taken place in prices. Brazilian Five per Cents have realised 102; Mexican Three per Cents, 20½; Sardinian Five per Cents, for the Account, 57½; Spanish Three per Cents, 37½; Turkish Six per Cents, 80½ to 81; Belgian Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 94; Dutch Two-and-a-Half per Cents, 69; Dutch Four per Cents, 91½; Greek Bonds, 53; Russian Five per Cents, 100; Russian Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 90 to 91; Venezuela Three-and-a-Half per Cents, 23½; French Three per Cents, 70½; Ditto Scrip, 5½ to 5½ prem.

The business done in Joint-Stock Bank Shares has not been extensive, yet prices have ruled steady:—Australian have marked 83; English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered, 15½ ex. div.; London Chartered of Australia, 21; Ditto, New, 5; New South Wales, 31; Oriental, 40; Provincial of Ireland, 49; Union of Australia, 65½. Miscellaneous Securities have been inactive:—Australian Agricultural have sold at 31; Australian Royal Mail, 3½; Canada, 120½; Ditto, Government Six per Cents, 106½; Crystal Palace, 3½; Peel River Land and Mineral, 2½; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 58½; St. Katharine Docks, 82; South Australian Land, 30½; Victoria Dock, 13; Assam Tea, 21; London Dock, 102; Mexican and South American, 65. The Canal Share Market has been rather heavy:—Coventry, 209; Derby, 31; Grand Surrey, 48; Leicester, 59; Loughborough, 57½; Neith, 150; Regent's 153; Rochdale, 60; Stafford and Worcester, 425; Stourbridge, 285; Worcester and Birmingham, 25. Waterworks Shares have ruled as follows:—Kent, 78½; New River, 55; Southwark and Vauxhall, 89½; West Middlesex, 90; Ditto, New, 15. In Gas Light and Coke Companies Shares, very little has been transacted:—British Provincial, 20; Brighton, 14; Imperial, 101; Ditto, New, 16; Ratcliffe, 70; Surrey Consumers, 11; United General, 19½; Westminster Chartered, 30½. Globe Insurance Shares have marked 123; Guardian, 51½; London, 29½; New Equitable, 1; Professional Life, 4½; Rock Life, 7½; Victoria Life, 5½. Bridge Shares have been very dull:—Hungerford, 12; Waterloo, 37½; Vauxhall, 23; Ditto, Old Annuities of £8, 39; Ditto, New, of £7, 27½.

There have been very few dealings in the Railway Share Market. Prices have shown a tendency to give way. The following are the official closing prices on Thursday:—

ORDINARY SHARES AND STOCKS.—Caledonian, 61½; Chester and Holyhead, 11½; Eastern Counties, 11½; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 53; Great Northern, 88, ex. div.; Ditto A Stock, 72 ex. div.; Ditto B Stock, 12½ ex. div.; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 91½; Great Western, 65 ex. new; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 76½ ex. div.; London and Blackwall, 8; London, and Brighton, 98; London and North Western, 99½; Ditto £10 Shares, 54; London and South-Western, 83½; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 21½; Midland, 69½; ditto, Birmingham and Derby, 42½; North-Eastern—Berwick, 72; ditto, York, 49; North Staffordshire, 12½; South-Eastern, 61½; Vale of Neath, 16½ ex. div.

LINES LEASED AT FIXED RENTALS.—Hull and Selby, 105½; Lowestoft Six per Cent, 108; Manchester, Buxton, and Matlock, 2½; Midland Bradford, 91; Wear Valley, 32.

PREFERENCE SHARES.—Eastern Counties Extension, No. 1, 1½ pm.; ditto, No. 2, 2½ pm.; Great Northern Five per Cents, 107½ ex. div.; Ditto, Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 101½ ex. div.; Great Western Four per Cent, 91 ex. div.; Ditto, Chester Shares, 9½; Ditto, 14½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 51 ex. div.; London and Brighton Five per Cent Stock, 114½; Ditto, New Five per Cents, 114; Midland, Bristol, and Birmingham Six per Cents, 131½; North-Eastern—York H. and S. Purchase—93; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Six per Cents, 107; Waterford and Kilkenny Six per Cents, 1½.

FOREIGN.—Antwerp and Rotterdam, 83; Dutch Rhenish, 83; East Indian Five per Cent, 22½; Ditto, Extension, 11½; Great Western of Canada Shares, 17½; Hamilton and Toronto, 19½; Lyons and Geneva, 11½; Sambre and Meuse, 5½.

Mining Shares have been dull, Australian have marked 1; Imperial Brazilian, 23; Copper Miners of England, 7½ per Cent Preference, 25; Pontigbaud Silver Lead, 15; Santiago de Cuba, 6; United Mexican, 5½.

THE MARKETS.

Corn. The general demand has been less active this week, yet prices are fairly supported. Linseed, English, sowing, 68s. to 70s.; Baltic, crushing, 68s. to 69s.; Mediterranean and Chinese, 68s. to 70s.; Flour, sowing, 18s. to 20s. per quarter. Canary, 29s. to 31s. per cwt. Brown Mustard seed, 13s. to 14s.; white ditto, 8s. to 11s.; Rape, 29s. to 31s. per bushel. English rapeseed, 13s. to 14s. per bushel of ten quarters. Linseed cakes, English, 11s. to 11½; ditto, foreign, 11s. to 11½; rape cakes, 15s. to 16s. per ton. Canary, 4s. to 4½; per quarter. Red clover seed, 52s. to 54s.; white ditto, 70s. to 80s. per cwt. Broad.—The prices of broad seeds in the metropolis are from 3d. to 1s. 10d.; of household ditto, 8d. to 1s. 4d. per bushel.

Tea.—A full average business is doing in all kinds of tea, at fully last week's currency. Common sound congon is selling at 9½d. per lb. The supply on offer is large. Sugar.—The demand for nearly all kinds of raw sugar has been heavy, and, in some instances, the quotations have had a downward tendency. Foreign sugars, aloof, have met a slow inquiry. In crushed, very little is doing. Refined goods are tolerably firm. Brown lump, 42s. 6d.; and low to fine gravity, 43s. to 49s. per cwt.

Coffee.—Our market continues firm, at very full prices. Good ordinary native Ceylon has changed hands at 47s. 6d. per cwt.

Butter.—The amount of business doing in our market is by no means extensive; nevertheless, the quotations are well supported.

Provisions.—All kinds of Irish butter have moved off heavily, at dropping prices. Foreign qualities have given way 6s. to 8s. per cwt. English butters rule about stationary. The bacon market is rather active, and the quotations have an upward tendency. Lard, and other kinds of provisions, support former terms.

Tallow.—This article has become rather firmer, at 47s. 6d. to 48s. per cwt. for P.Y.C. on the spot. Rough fat, 2s. 7½d. per 3lbs.

Oils.—Lined oil is dull, at 33s. 9d. to 34s. per cwt. on the spot. All other oils move off slowly, at barely late rates. Turpentine is heavy, and spirits may be had at 33s. to 33s. 6d.; rough, 3s. 1d. to 3s. per cwt.

Spirits.—Government has taken 90,000 gallons of rum, yet the demand for that article is by no means active. Proof Leewards, 2s. 3d. to 2s. 4d.; East India, 2s. to 2s. 1d. per gallon. Brandy is tolerably firm, but not dear. Geneva and corn spirits are at last advised.

Hay and Straw.—Meadow hay, £3 15s. to £4 15s.; clover ditto, £3 to £3 15s.; and straw, £1 3s. to £1 10s. per load.

Coal.—Haswell, 20s.; Hutton, 20s.; South Hartlepool, 18s.; Holywell, 21s.; Tanfield, 17s.; Hartley, 17s.; (concourse), 16s. 6d. per ton.

Hops.—Our market is tolerably firm, and last week's currency is well supported.

Wool.—Great depression prevails in the demand for all kinds of wool, and prices are almost nominal.

Woolstaples.—Large supplies continue to arrive in the metropolis, and the demand is heavy, at prices varying from 70s. to 120s. per ton.

Smithfield.—There has been less activity in the trade in our market this week, and the quotations have had a downward tendency.

Beef, from 3s. 2d. to 4s. 10d.; mutton, 3s. 6d. to 5s. 2d.; veal, 4s. 0d. to 5s.; pork, 3s. to 4s. 4d. per 8 lbs. to sink the scale.

Scrap and Leaden.—These markets have been heavy, as follows:—2nd Lieut. P. H. B. Knight to be Ensign; 2nd Lieut. P. H. B. Knight to be Ensign; 2nd Lieut. P. H. B. Knight to be Ensign.

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THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16.

WAR-OFFICE, MARCH 16.

6th Dragoon Guards: A. C. Haynes to be Cornet.

1st Dragoons: Regimental Sergeant-Major Cruise to be Riding Master.

2nd Cornet A. S. M. Brown to be Lieutenant; Assist.-Surg. C. C. Rutherford to be Assistant-Surgeon.

6th Staff Surg. of the Second Class F. H. Baxter, M.D., to be Surgeon.

8th Light Dragoons: Cornet A. C. Haynes to be Cornet.

1st Grenadier Guards: A. C. H. D. Peimant to be Ensign and Lieutenant.

4th Foot: J. D. Dickinson to be Ensign.

7th L. W. Sparks to be Ensign.

17th L. J. Seagram and H. A. Little to be Ensigns.

18th S. Darrell and C. N. Fry to be Ensigns.

AMUSEMENTS, &c.

THEATRE ROYAL HAYMARKET.—Last week but two of the SPANISH DANCERS, who will appear in their new Spanish Ballet, and the GALICIAN FETE, with their famous Pas Grottesque, preceded by THE SECRET AGENT. Between the Ballets THE BALANCE OF COMFORT. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, A PRETTY PIECE OF BUSINESS.

ROYAL PRINCESS' THEATRE.—Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, LOUIS XI.; Tuesday, FAUST and MAUGERITE; Thursday, COUSIN BROTHERS; A GAME OF ROMPS every Evening.

GREAT NATIONAL STANDARD THEATRE. Shoreditch.—Proprietor, Mr. JOHN DOUGLASS. —Miss Glyn, the greatest actress, as "Duchess of Mail." Every Evening, Wednesday and Thursday, except Sunday, On Thursday, "Antony and Cleopatra." Mr. Henry Marston, every evening.

DELPHI THEATRE.—C. H. ADAMS'S ORRERY.—On MONDAY, APRIL 2nd and during the week (Good Friday excepted) Mr. Adams will deliver his ANNUAL LECTURE ON ASTRONOMY, being his Twenty-Fifth Year in London.—Begin at Eight, and about Ten.—Boxes, 2s.; Pit, 1s.; Stalls, 3s.; Private Boxes, 10s. 6d., and 21s.—Box-office open daily.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, REGENT-SQUARE.—The collection of living Animals includes a magnificent series of Lions, Lion Whelps, Clouded Tigers, Hunting Dogs, and other Carnivora, Elephants, Rhinoceros, and a pair of Hippopotami; together with an immense number of Birds, Hares, Fish, and other Marine Animals. Admission, 1s.; on Mondays, 6d.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—MONDAY EVENING, the 26th inst., Lecture by J. H. PEPPE, Esq., on the Chemistry of the Non-Metallic Elements. Tuesday Evening: Important Lecture on Siege Operations in connection with Sebastopol, by E. Jekyll, Esq. (late Captain Grenadier Guards). Telephone Concert by Invisible Performers. Thursday: Dramatic Reading, by Mr. Richard Leslie, "Richard III." Wednesday, Friday, Astronomy, by Dr. Barchinoff, with appropriate Music. The three Last Performances of the Tyrolean Minstrels, Monday, Tuesday, and Friday Evenings.

IMMANUEL.—Under the immediate Patronage of her most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and the rest of the Royal Family.—This Oratorio will be performed at ST. MARTIN'S HALL, on THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 29, for the BENEFIT of the HOME for GENTLEMEN. Principal singers: Madame Clara Novello, Miss Dolly, Mr. Dobey, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Novello, Conductor, Mr. Henry Leslie. Tickets, 2s. 6d., 5s., and 10s. 6d., are to be had at Jullien and Co.'s, 21, Regent-street.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY. Exeter-hall.—Conductor, Mr. COSTA. On WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, MESSIAH. Vocalists, Madame Clara Novello, Miss Dolly, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Novello. On FRIDAY, APRIL 13, Mendelssohn's ELIAS. Vocalists: Madame Clara Novello, Miss Dolly, Mr. Dobey, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Novello. Tickets, 2s., 5s., 10s. 6d. each, may be at once secured for these performances at the Society's office, No. 6 Room, within Exeter-hall.—Applications (by letter) must be accompanied by a remittance of the amount; if by Post-office order, made payable to ROBERT HOWLEY, at the Charing-cross Office.

THE PORTLAND GALLERY, 316, Regent-street (opposite the Royal Polytechnic Institution).—The Eighth Annual Exhibition of the National Institution of FINE ARTS is NOW OPEN from Nine till dusk. Admission, One Shilling; Catalogue, sixpence. BELL SMITH, Secretary.

EXHIBITION of the SOCIETY of BRITISH ARTISTS. Incorporated by Royal Charter.—The THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL EXHIBITION of this SOCIETY is NOW OPEN from Nine a.m. till dusk. Admission, 1s. ALFRED CLINT, Honorary Secretary. Suffolk-street, Pall-mall East.

ART-UNION of LONDON.—By ROYAL CHARTER. Prizeholders select for themselves from the public Exhibitions. Every Subscriber of One Guinea will have, besides the chance of a prize, an impression of a plate of "A Water Party," by J. T. Willmore, A.R.A., after J. Chalon, R.A., and a quarto volume of thirty illustrations of Byron's "Childe Harold." The prints are ready for delivery, and the volume may be seen at the office. Subscription closes Saturday next, 31st instant. 414, West Strand, GEORGE GOWIN, Honorary Secretary. LEWIS POOCOCK, Secretaries.

JOHN B. GOUGH will deliver ORATIONS in EXETER HALL as follows:—MONDAY, the 26th of March; THURSDAY, the 29th of March. Doors open each Evening at Seven; Chair taken at Eight o'clock. Tickets, 1s. 6d. each, reserved seats and platform, 1s.; may be had at 337, Strand.—Also in the Hanover-square Rooms, on Tuesday, March 27. Chair taken at Three o'clock in the Afternoon. Admission, 1s.; Reserved Seats, 2s.

LECTURES to WORKING MEN.—The following COURSES of LECTURES will be delivered in the EVENINGS during the present Session in the THEATRE of the MUSEUM of PRACTICAL GEOLOGY, Jernyn-street. 1. On GEOLOGY, by E. J. Jekyll, Esq., F.R.S. 2. On MECHANISM, by R. WILLIS, M.A., F.R.S. 3. On NATURAL HISTORY, by T. H. HUXLEY, F.R.S. The First Course of Six Lectures on the Geology of the British Rocks used in the Arts and Manufactures commenced at Eight o'clock on MONDAY, the 27th of JANUARY, and will be continued on each succeeding Monday Evening at the same hour. The Second Course, on Mechanism, by Professor Willis, will be commenced after the conclusion of the first. Tickets are obtainable, by working men only, upon payment of a registration fee of 6d. for the course of Six Lectures; and due notice will be given of the day on which they are issued. THOMAS REEKS, Registrar.

THE POLY-HARMONICON; or, Royal Musical Game, has received the highest encomiums from the Press, Polytechnic, and other Institutions, for its amusing and instructive qualities. Third Edition. The number of changes is upwards of 15,000 Polkas, delightful and original. Price, 3s. 6d., 5s., 7s. 6d., and 10s. 6d. Free for 8 extra stamps. P. EZEKIEL VAN NOORDEN, 115, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury.

TOLKIE'S 25-GUINEA ROYAL MINUTO PLANOFORTE.—H. T., the original maker of a 25-Guinea Pianoforte, has, by the aid of his son, who is a branch of the manufacture, obtained the highest reputation throughout the universe for his instruments, unequalled in durability and delicacy of touch, more especially for their excellence in standing in tune in the various climates of our colonies. In elegant walnut, rosewood, and mahogany. Cases packed for abroad for 23 10s. extra.—H. Tolkie's Manufactory, 27, 28, and 29, King William-street, London-bridge.

HARMONICUMS at CHAPPELL'S.—The HARMONICUM by ALEXANDER is the only instrument of the kind that remains in tune; from the simplicity of its construction it is but slightly affected by changes of weather; and is alike calculated for the Church, School, or Drawing-room. No. 1. In oak case, one stop, 5 octaves, 10 guineas. 2. In mahogany case, one stop, 12 guineas. 3. In oak case, 3 stops, 15 guineas; rosewood, 16 guineas. 4. With five stops, 20 guineas; rosewood, 21 guineas. 5. Eight stops, 25 guineas; rosewood, 26 guineas. 6. Twelve stops, 30 guineas; rosewood, 31 guineas. 7. One stop, and percussion action, in oak, 15 guineas. 8. Three stops, and percussion action, in oak, 16 guineas. 9. Eight stops, percussion action, in oak or rosewood, 22 guineas. 10. Twelve stops, percussion action, in oak or rosewood, 23 guineas. 11. Twelve stops, percussion action, in oak, 40 guineas. 12. The new patent model—15 stops, percussion action, expression & a lute, &c.; the most perfect Harmonicum that can be made, in mahogany, oak or rosewood, 55 guineas. Full descriptions list on application. CHAPPELL, 50, New Bond-street.

MUSICAL-BOX REPOSITORY, 32, Ludgate-street (opposite Exeter-hall).—WALSH and BELL have direct Importers of Nipper's celebrated Musical-Boxes, playing, with unrivalled brilliancy of tone, the most popular, favourite, and Sacred Music. Large sizes, four sizes, 41; 46; 51; 56; 61; 66; 71; 76; 81; 86; 91; 96; 101; 106; 111; 116; 121; 126; 131; 136; 141; 146; 151; 156; 161; 166; 171; 176; 181; 186; 191; 196; 201; 206; 211; 216; 221; 226; 231; 236; 241; 246; 251; 256; 261; 266; 271; 276; 281; 286; 291; 296; 301; 306; 311; 316; 321; 326; 331; 336; 341; 346; 351; 356; 361; 366; 371; 376; 381; 386; 391; 396; 401; 406; 411; 416; 421; 426; 431; 436; 441; 446; 451; 456; 461; 466; 471; 476; 481; 486; 491; 496; 501; 506; 511; 516; 521; 526; 531; 536; 541; 546; 551; 556; 561; 566; 571; 576; 581; 586; 591; 596; 601; 606; 611; 616; 621; 626; 631; 636; 641; 646; 651; 656; 661; 666; 671; 676; 681; 686; 691; 696; 701; 706; 711; 716; 721; 726; 731; 736; 741; 746; 751; 756; 761; 766; 771; 776; 781; 786; 791; 796; 801; 806; 811; 816; 821; 826; 831; 836; 841; 846; 851; 856; 861; 866; 871; 876; 881; 886; 891; 896; 901; 906; 911; 916; 921; 926; 931; 936; 941; 946; 951; 956; 961; 966; 971; 976; 981; 986; 991; 996; 1001; 1006; 1011; 1016; 1021; 1026; 1031; 1036; 1041; 1046; 1051; 1056; 1061; 1066; 1071; 1076; 1081; 1086; 1091; 1096; 1101; 1106; 1111; 1116; 1121; 1126; 1131; 1136; 1141; 1146; 1151; 1156; 1161; 1166; 1171; 1176; 1181; 1186; 1191; 1196; 1201; 1206; 1211; 1216; 1221; 1226; 1231; 1236; 1241; 1246; 1251; 1256; 1261; 1266; 1271; 1276; 1281; 1286; 1291; 1296; 1301; 1306; 1311; 1316; 1321; 1326; 1331; 1336; 1341; 1346; 1351; 1356; 1361; 1366; 1371; 1376; 1381; 1386; 1391; 1396; 1401; 1406; 1411; 1416; 1421; 1426; 1431; 1436; 1441; 1446; 1451; 1456; 1461; 1466; 1471; 1476; 1481; 1486; 1491; 1496; 1501; 1506; 1511; 1516; 1521; 1526; 1531; 1536; 1541; 1546; 1551; 1556; 1561; 1566; 1571; 1576; 1581; 1586; 1591; 1596; 1601; 1606; 1611; 1616; 1621; 1626; 1631; 1636; 1641; 1646; 1651; 1656; 1661; 1666; 1671; 1676; 1681; 1686; 1691; 1696; 1701; 1706; 1711; 1716; 1721; 1726; 1731; 1736; 1741; 1746; 1751; 1756; 1761; 1766; 1771; 1776; 1781; 1786; 1791; 1796; 1801; 1806; 1811; 1816; 1821; 1826; 1831; 1836; 1841; 1846; 1851; 1856; 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THE EARL OF CARLISLE, LORD-LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND.

all the appointments made by Lord Palmerston in forming his Administration, none has been more popular than that which nominated the Earl of Carlisle to the high and important office of Viceroy of Ireland, vacated by the resignation of the Earl of St. Germans. The announcement that the noble Earl had accepted the post was received with satisfaction in Ireland, not merely by those who are politically of the same views as himself, but also by his opponents. Considering that Lord Carlisle has never disguised or compromised his opinions on the great subjects which agitate the minds of men in the Sister Island, such a unanimity of feeling is the strongest testimony that could be offered to the personal qualities of the noble Lord.

Ireland and Irishmen have had experience of those qualities. For several years he acted as Chief Secretary; and, as it was during the period of his administration that some of the measures were passed or proposed which most excited religious and political controversy in the Sister Island, he may well be envied the mysterious talisman by means of which he bore away with him the united suffrages of politicians and religious partisans so hot and hostile. We believe that the grand secret of his success was a certain natural dignity, derived from the influence of a high moral sense. It was perfectly well known that Lord Morpeth was not to be swayed or influenced by any of the lower classes or motives, so that he commanded respect among men who, though as a general rule, they love the sin which makes a Minister bend to influence, are almost unanimous in covering with contumely and contempt the sinner. Yet, withal, Lord Morpeth was ever so accessible, so courteously impartial, and there was so much amenity and suavity in his manners, that even refusals from him never took a provoking shape, and he was to a great extent exempted from that virulent abuse which the disappointed are too ready to pass off as public opinion. He returns to the scene of his labours with all the prestige attending his former sojourn, swelled by many political and senatorial triumphs, and honours fairly won as an administrator and a philanthropist. He is himself an embodied "conciliation."

George William Frederick Howard, now the seventh Earl of Carlisle, first entered public life in 1826, as Viscount Morpeth. Born in 1802 at his father's mansion in Hill-street, Berkeley-square, he was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, where he took honours. At the age of twenty-four he was returned for the borough of Morpeth, where his family have always exercised a predominating influence. As a scion of one of the "great Whig houses," his earlier Parliamentary efforts were watched with considerable interest; but, although he made many able speeches—somehow too much formed on the old Parliamentary models—he did not rise into any importance till the commencement of the Reform era. He had, like Lord John Russell, steadily acted with his party during the interval between 1826 and 1830. In that year occurred the first great political event of his life. To represent the West Riding of Yorkshire has always been regarded as an object of the highest ambition. It is looked upon as a kind of model constituency, so composed of the territorial and commercial influences as to become a kind of barometer of public opinion. Mr. Brougham's election heralded the Reform agitation. Lord Morpeth's proved that it was not a mere democratic cry, but that it was sanctioned and participated in by the aristocracy. This election gave a fresh impetus to Lord Morpeth's rising reputation; and he took rank in the House of Commons accordingly. As a speaker in support of Reform, and subsequently in general defence of the measures of the Whig Administration, he often acquitted himself very much to the satisfaction, not seldom to the admiration, of the House of Commons. His speeches were



HIS EXCELLENCY THE EARL OF CARLISLE, K.G., LORD-LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND.
FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY KILBURN.

exactly those that might have been expected from a young Whig nobleman playing at democracy; and during this part of his career he kept strictly within the limits marked out by his chiefs.

In April, 1835, when the Melbourne Administration was reconstituted, after the brief but glorious effort of Sir Robert Peel to reconsolidate the Tory party, Lord Morpeth was appointed to an office worthy of his party influence and his talents, and requiring qualities of no

ordinary kind for the discharge of its duties. By the alleged "Lichfield House Compact," the revived Whig Ministry, it was supposed, had entered into bonds to "do justice to Ireland." To Lord Morpeth it fell to be the organ and medium of these measures of "justice," which in the natural course of things would ever be too small for the one party, and too great for the other. It fell to his lot to introduce and defend in the House of Commons much of that important legislation which has contributed to cement the union between England and Ireland; and it would be difficult to explain, though the fact be true, how much the personal character of the young nobleman entrusted with the Chief Secretaryship, contributed to soften the ordinary asperities of party feeling. How he succeeded as a merely local administrator, we have already described.

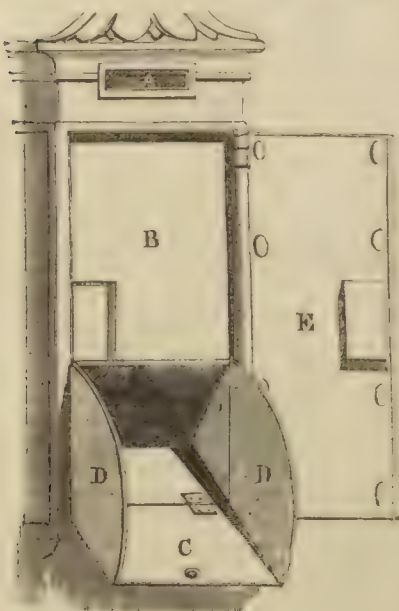
During five years and a half Lord Morpeth continued thus to administer the affairs of Ireland, and share the general policy of his party in Parliament. But the first parliamentary tactician of any age had long been devoting his forces to the destruction of the Whig Administration, and in September, 1841, he consummated its downfall. His tactics had in the meanwhile proved fatal to the subject of this sketch, who, at the general election of 1841, was deprived of his seat for the West Riding. Of course he left office with the Melbourne Ministry.

Lord Morpeth now took a bold resolution—not singular, because Mr. Macaulay afterwards took a similar one. He determined not to re-enter Parliament except as the representative of the West Riding of Yorkshire, and remained deaf to all appeals to shake his resolution. Fond of travel, he devoted the time necessary for the recovery of the public partly to a foreign tour. When he returned, he applied himself with much energy and perseverance to questions of sanitary and social reform, which derived a certain vogue (and, so to speak, respectability) from his countenance of them. In February, 1846, a vacancy having occurred in the West Riding, Lord Morpeth was once more returned for that loyal constituency, thus receiving the reward of long self-denial. The break-up of the Peel Ministry, and the return of the Whigs under Lord John Russell, brought Lord Morpeth again into office, this time as Chief Commissioner of Woods and Forests. In the discharge of the duties of this office he was enabled to carry out many of the views he had adopted while in comparative retirement. In March, 1850, however, he changed it for the Chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster, which he held till the downfall of the Russell Administration in February, 1852. In 1847 he had been appointed Lord-Lieutenant of the West Riding. In the year 1853 he was elected Lord Rector of the University of Aberdeen. In 1848, on the death of his father, he succeeded to the Earldom of Carlisle, and entered the Upper House of Parliament. In the Coalition Administration he took no part; but accepted from Lord Palmerston the post of Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, for which his experience and local influence eminently fit him. Lord Carlisle is one of the Council of the Duchy of Cornwall, and Ranger of Dean Forest. He has appeared with success in the arena of literature, as a contributor of elegant verse to annuals; and as the author of a "Diary in Turkish and Greek Waters," the result of the noble author's recent visit to the East. This work, which was reviewed in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS for October 28, 1854, is now in its fourth edition.

The Peerages inform us that the noble Lord is the seventh Earl of Carlisle. The family is a branch of that of Norfolk. The first Earl was Ambassador to the then Czar of Muscovy, in the seventeenth century, and afterwards Governor of Jamaica. The third Earl rose to be Prime Minister; and the fifth, like the present, became Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. The sixth Earl was in office as Lord Privy Seal. The noble Earl is a bachelor; his heir presumptive being his brother, the Hon. and Rev. William George Howard, Rector of Londesborough, in Yorkshire. The mother of Lord Carlisle was the daughter of the fifth Duke of Devonshire.

NEW STREET LETTER-BOXES.

THE accommodation at the Post Receiving Houses in various parts of the metropolis, has long been of a very imperfect kind. Formerly a Receiving House was denoted by a richly-embazoned pane, in which the time-honoured British lion shone in full national emblazonry; and here and there the tutelary animal's mouth was the receptacle of letters; just as the famous Lion's head at Button's coffee-house, received contributions for the *Guardian*. Few shop-fronts, however, bore so distinctive a feature; but the letter-mouth might be seen at various levels—rarely, as an artist would say, "on the line"—so as to render its discovery somewhat perplexing when the mixed topography of shop-windows is considered. Then came the mean-looking iron crown upon the top of the nearest street-lamp, which did not much enlighten the public in their pursuit of a post-office under difficulties. Next, the example was set by the French Post-office authorities of having cast-iron pillars set up in various streets of Paris, for the reception of letters; and this experiment having been found successful, a similar plan has been adopted by the authorities in St. Martin's-le-Grand. At stated points have been erected cast-iron letter-boxes, one of which—that at the corner of Fleet-street and Farringdon-street—is shown in the accompanying illustration. It is much less ornamental than the Paris pillar. Our letter-box is a stove-like design, reminding one of the latest of the London conduits. An outer panel of the box bears this inscription:—



INTERIOR OF NEW LETTER-BOX.

sign, reminding one of the latest of the London conduits. An outer panel of the box bears this inscription:—

LETTER BOX.

FOR STAMPED AND UNPAID LETTERS ONLY.

Newspapers posted here will not be forwarded.

Letters containing Money or Valuable Articles should be Registered at a Post-office.

THE NEAREST POST-OFFICE IS AT 101, FLEET-STREET.

GENERAL POST LETTERS.

For the Morning Mails, are collected here, 5 a.m.; for the Evening Mails, 5.30 p.m. Letters bearing an Additional Penny Stamp may be Posted for the Evening Mails, 6 p.m.

LETTERS FOR LONDON AND SUBURBAN DISTRICTS.

Hours of Collection.	Delivery in London Commences at	Dispatched from the Chief Office to the Suburban Districts.
9 a.m.	10 a.m.	12 at Noon, to places having four or more deliveries daily.
11 "	12 Noon.	4 p.m. to places within twelve miles of the General Post-office.
12 Noon.	1 p.m.	6 p.m. to places within six miles of the General Post-office.
1 p.m.	2 "	8 p.m. for delivery next morning 8 a.m.
2 "	3 "	
3 "	4 "	
4 "	5 "	
5 "	6 "	
6 "	7 "	
7 "	8 a.m.	

The Town Delivery is complete in about 1½ hours.

The Suburban Delivery takes from 1½ to 3 hours from the time of dispatch according to distance.

The material is cast iron; and the manufacturers are Messrs. H. and M. D. Grissell, of the Regent's Canal Ironworks, Eagle Wharf-road, New North-road, Hoxton. The front of the Letter-box is shown in the Engraving; and the accompanying Diagram shows the interior contrivance for taking out the letters:—A, opening for letters; B, inner wooden front of box; C, flap, which opens and forms an inclined plane with the bottom of the box, by which means the letters are shot into the postman's bag; D, slides to the flap, to prevent the letters falling over; E, inside of iron door. The locks are the "patent detector," by Messrs. Chubb, St. Paul's Churchyard.

THE RUSSIAN MEDAL.—On the bodies of numbers of the Russian soldiers who recently fell before Eupatoria were found the silver medal of the decoration of St. George. On one side is engraved the Russian eagle with two heads, holding in its talons the terrestrial globe and the sceptre of the Sovereign; over the eagle is the Imperial Crown of Russia, surmounted by the illuminated dove, and round these figures is the following motto, in the Russian language:—"Fall on your knees, idolaters, for God is with us." On the other side of the medal is the following motto, also in Russian:—"For the submission of Hungary and Transylvania;" which sufficiently indicates its origin.

The temporary huts for the encampment of 20,000 men on Aldershot-heath are ordered to be ready for the troops on the 1st April. The nearest station to the Camp is Farnborough.

PRINCE MENSCHIKOFF.—The disgrace of this commander is more complete than was signified in the first accounts from St. Petersburg. An order of the day dated the 4th inst., removes him, under the form of accepting his resignation, not only from the command in the Crimea, but from the post of Chief of the Naval Staff, and from the Governor-Generalship of Finland. He retains only the titular appointments of Aide-de-Camp General and Councillor of State. Therefore, in addition to Rokassowski and Dannenberg, we may now put down Menschikoff in the list of the Generals to whom the war has cost their command. Prince Menschikoff's removal into inactivity has been by no means accompanied by any bestowal of laurels. The Prince, it is true, undertook, with 50,000 men, to defend the Taurian peninsula against any enemy; but by degrees the conviction has gained ground that any other Russian General, with such a *terrain* as that of the Crimea, and with such fortifications as those of Sebastopol, could in all probability have done as much. In every case where he attempted to do more than just defend himself his enterprises failed. Almut and Inkerman are his witnesses, and now Eupatoria. No acknowledgment, no approbation of these operations—only encomiums on the bravery with which the soldiers fought at the bombardment of Sebastopol and various actions—proceeded from the deceased Emperor. The Grand Duke Nicholas was commissioned to hint to Prince Menschikoff that the state of his health, which has been ruined in the service, might perhaps make it desirable for him to recruit it; and that, in the meantime, the supreme command could be made over to Prince Gortschakoff. Prince Menschikoff understood the hint, and forwarded to the by that time deceased Emperor his request to be allowed to retire. The present Emperor accepted it, and, on the 4th inst., relieved the Prince of all his offices.



THE NEW POST-OFFICE LETTER-BOX, AT THE CORNER OF FLEET-STREET AND FARRINGDON-STREET.

EXHIBITION OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION. (SECOND NOTICE.)

As our last week's Illustration from the Portland Gallery, we made Mr. Raven carry us (and very pleasantly he carried us) into the haunt of the fallow deer; this week Mr. Charles Dukes wafts us, by the ready resources of his pencil, to a touching incident of domestic life—common, let us hope, in every cottage hearth in England—a young mother listening to a chapter from the Bible from the lips of her eldest born; and Mr. Arthur Gilbert speeds us away into a solitude wherein we may think down hours to moments, so sublime and yet so beautiful is the repose he has brought most unmistakably before us.

Mr. Dukes has very appropriately called his picture "Reading a Chapter." It is a kind of Cotter's "Saturday Night." The father has not yet returned from his toil as a fisherman; and the young mother, having washed her youngest born, is on the eve of putting him to bed, but not without teaching her children that praise and prayer are necessary for every condition of life. There are few sights more beautiful in domestic nature than that of a young mother thus properly employed. It is a scene of innocence—it is a prospect of happiness hereafter. Mr. Dukes has entered into this feeling with a very fine sense of what is beautiful and good; and the result has been that he has given us a picture which will find many admirers, though his colouring is somewhat too soft. The general defect of his picture is a want of firmness and crispness of touch, but these acquirements—the results of greater study—will soon come to him.

In conceiving a subject so commonly painted as "Tranquillity," Mr. Arthur Gilbert has not attempted anything that is very new; nor has he made any additions to nature, or had recourse to the compositions of other artists. He has been struck with what he has seen—what, indeed, thousands are seeing every year; some with eyes alive to its beauties, and which others (a large number) pass unregarded by, as an effect in nature pretty enough, and nothing more. But Mr. Gilbert has been gifted with an eye alive to the rich combinations of nature, and has rendered a scene of solitude as if he had never heard other sound than that of the rustle of the aspen leaf, or of a bird on the wing to its evening nest. How solemn is the repose of that deep water, under the shadow of that thick line of trees! It is one continual pool, never disturbed on its surface but by the slenderest insects. The very leaves in autumn fall so gently upon it that its smooth current (if current it has) can hardly be said to be touched by them. Here the greatest hater of London and its street cries, and the eternal rattle of its wheels, will find a change equal



"READING A CHAPTER."—PAINTED BY C. DUKES.—EXHIBITION OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION OF FINE ARTS.

to the deepest solitude of his wishes. Here is a solitude as intense as that so exquisitely described by Dr. Donne:—

Where together lay
Feathers and dust—to-day and yesterday.

A second personage in such a scene would jar with the sentiment of the spectator. As we stand musing before it, we are inclined to be angry when any person approaches to participate in the pleasure of so solemn a repose, and when (on quitting the Gallery) we are hurried into the throng of Regent-street; we have recourse to poetry, and record our approbation to ourselves of a very fine work of art by all the scraps of poetry about solitude that we can call to mind. Grainger might have added another image or two to his "Ode on Solitude" (so justly admired by Dr. Johnson) had he seen Mr. Gilbert's picture. Our poets have not drawn largely enough on images and effects in art. Few of our poets, indeed, have understood art—none, we suspect, thoroughly but Thompson, Gray, and Mr. Rogers.

FINE ARTS.

THE ART-UNION OF GLASGOW.

The prize paintings of the Art-Union of Glasgow, intended for distribution in the current year, are now on view at the Gallery, 121, Pall-Mall.

The Collection consists of 125 pieces, besides some five-and-twenty which are exhibited at the British Institution and the Edinburgh Academy; and more will probably be added as the season advances, and further subscriptions come in. The system adopted in this Art-Union is different from that of the "London," and contains some advantages, whilst undoubtedly, in the minds of some, it may be open to objections. It is this, that instead of a money prize being awarded, with which the fortunate holder may purchase any picture of his own selection, the gross amount of prize money is laid out in pictures by the committee, to be afterwards distributed; and this it is considered will ensure an average better quality, both as to subject and execution, in the art so patronised. In the exercise of this discretionary power, also, the Committee do not restrict their choice to works which have already been publicly exhibited, but seek to forestall the public, which, just now, is a comorant with respect to pictures by artists of any note or likelihood, by securing pictures whilst yet on the easel. Amongst the works purchased under these circumstances in the present Collection, we must certainly congratulate the Committee, and the subscribers generally, upon a very fine picture by Sant, "Watching the Combat"—a group of three Saxon maidens, which is remarkable for forcible dramatic effect and poetic character. We remark also with



"TRANQUILLITY."—PAINTED BY A. GILBERT.—EXHIBITION OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION OF FINE ARTS.

pleasure in the "Collection," a "Stream in the Island of Arran," by J. Sum; "the Lost Game," (at Chess), by E. R. Pickersgill; a beautiful "View in Venice" (painted to order), by E. W. Cooke; "Musidora," a figure study, by W. E. Frost; "Don Sancho Panza, Governor of the Island of Barataria," by John Gilbert; a "Sunny Morning," by J. Mogford; a "View on the Thames," by A. Gilbert; "Greenwich—Evening," and another large landscape, by Niemann. The amount already disposed of in the purchase of pictures for the present year is £2401.

PARIS UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

Since I last addressed you, great activity has manifested itself in various parts of the Exhibition. But the most exciting event which has yet taken place in connection with the Exhibition was the delivery of pictures and sculpture on the 15th inst. On this day, according to official announcement, the doors of the Fine Art Galleries were to close upon contributors; early on this morning, therefore, artists began to arrive before the back doors of the galleries, accompanied by their works. Before mid-day the scene was most amusing: every variety of Parisian conveyance, from the dashing remise down to the humble hand-barrow, had been in requisition. Some, too economical to employ the proprietors even of hand-barrow, arrived, carrying their pictures under their arms. Great excitement prevailed when a colossal painting was driven up; and, under cover of this excitement, timid ladies were seen to make their way to the doors, and taking a little portrait from under their cloak, to leave it, and hasten away. There were groups of calm artists lounging about, with cigars in their mouths, discussing the merits of the various performances they had seen in their friends' ateliers; workmen busy with crowbars; foremen with gay ribbons in their caps; custom-house officers looking on sardonically; firemen of ferocious aspect; and groups of workmen, from the factories in the neighbourhood, come, with their huge lumps of bread grasped in their broad hands, to eat their breakfast, and feast upon the novel sight before them at the same time. In the midst of all the bustle stood colossal statues, looking very dead and leaden, as statues always look when drawn along public streets. Then, to take from their effect, some of them were half hidden by cloths and rugs—the sculptor not wishing his performance to be polluted by the eye of the vulgar. And not the least interesting object to the crowd was your artist sketching. His acquaintance—who had delivered their pictures, and felt a load off their mind—were skipping about in great delight; then, one by one, sauntered off to the Champs Elysées, to look at the masked madcaps of a Parisian *Mi-Carême*.

Your readers will learn with infinite regret that, up to the time at which I write, not a single English painting has reached Paris—the reason being that Lord Cowley and Mr. Owen do not consider the Art Galleries safe, on account of the contiguity of a sugar refinery, worked by steam. Mr. Arago, to whom I talked on the subject, and who, it may be remembered, is the Inspector-General of Fine Arts, declared that there was no danger whatever, in the first place; in the second place, that an overwhelming force of firemen would be kept constantly on the premises; and, in the third place, that he had assured Lord Cowley, when he visited the galleries, that the English pictures should be placed in the part of the building the furthest removed from the refinery. Yet these assurances do not seem to have satisfied his Excellency. He was promised that the Continental schools should all perish before the British was touched, yet our diplomatic representative of Braidwood in Paris was indelible. The French pretty openly describe this obstinacy as a *ruse*, by which the English intend to escape the damage their artists would receive by direct contrast with the artists of Paris; and this is to be sincerely regretted, since the public mind will be made up, and our English contributions will be regarded with prejudice (should they be sent, after all) by men who will be long sore about the unfriendly judgment our Ambassador has passed upon the Exhibition arrangements of our allies. It will grieve many of Horace Vernet's admirers in England to learn that his labours as juror are suspended by an illness which I hope is not so severe as it is rumoured to be. Before turning from the Art portion of the Exhibition, I may add, for the information of English Art students, that throughout the approaching summer no copying will be allowed in the Louvre, as this establishment will be open to the public daily, for the convenience of Exhibition visitors.

I again visited the Palais de l'Industrie on Thursday last. While I was in the building the first wagon-load of contributions arrived. It was amusing to remark the wondrous excitement which this arrival appeared to cause among the gentlemen charged with the reception of goods. Although I watched the scene from the most respectful distance, the officials wildly waved their hands to me, begging my removal to another part of the Palace. I am afraid one fiery little gentleman would have been seized with a fit of apoplexy had I not instantly obeyed. I skipped up the staircase (or the ascent yet to be marked out with stairs) very nimbly—wondering, by the way, that not more than three or four workmen were at work upon this backward part of the works. However, these staircases, when finished, will be really fine: they are very prettily inlaid with marble; and their solidity contrasts very pleasantly with the light galleries to which they lead. These broad galleries, with their arched roof, will certainly be the most striking feature of the building. Already, at the eastern extremity, there is some light skeleton work up, evidently destined to display textile fabrics. It was so fragile in appearance, however, that I remarked its resemblance to a child's game of dead men's bones. In the Northern Galleries lie heaps of fragments of old Exhibition stalls, marked Lyons, evidently destined to be furnished up. Unhappily, some of the Cupids' legs were missing; and there were loyal ornaments, in vogue perhaps at the French Exhibition of 1844, but hardly palatable to the powers that be. However, I remarked that the escutcheons were all left blank, to be filled in by the sagacious tradesman owning them, with the device that might best recommend his goods. The Western Gallery was chalked out into squares of space given to Saxony, Prussia, Wurtemberg, &c. Before leaving these galleries, I may remark that the great western painted window is advancing, I fear, amid the laughter of the majority of Parisian artists. That part of the design already set up looks like an elaborate glass caricature by Champ. Yet it is a serious work. I will simply describe two of the figures: one is a lady, who is nursing a cornucopia, the body of which resembles a flute, and the mouth of which disgorges—not grapes, and all the golden plenty of the earth, but—clocks and candlesticks, and all the golden manufactures of Paris. Under this figure is a sheep, and upon the head a shop-window of articles Paris is falling in the least admirable confusion. Next to the lady holding this extraordinary horn of plenty is a female of dignified aspect, clothed in a red garment, and standing near an enormous jar. This is possibly only a fanciful figure of *Potichomanie*!

The long Machinery Gallery is even less advanced than the Palace; yet energy may accomplish much in six weeks. People who remember the Crystal Palace in Hyde-park six weeks before the opening day would not despair were they to see the Crystal Palace in six weeks before the opening day.

Among the curious novelties of the Exhibition are a collection from Spain, the escutcheons of which will proceed to England, after having visited the Paris Exhibition. This is a novel idea.

The statue of Lord Clarendon, which was placed in the principal entrance to the Exhibition, has been removed to another place, and a new statue of Lord Clarendon has been placed in its place.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

THE LIGHT CAVALRY CHARGE AT BALACLAVA.

The Earl of LUCAN moved for copies of papers and correspondence respecting the charge of the Light Cavalry Brigade at the battle of Balaclava. He narrated the occurrences of the day, referred to the orders which had been sent to him by Lord Raglan, contending that in the position in which he was placed he was left without any discretion to decline or delay the execution of the last order he received. He commented on the correspondence which had taken place between the Commander-in-Chief, the War-office, and himself; vindicated the whole of his proceedings; and persisted in his demand for a court-martial, before which he might establish his case.

The Earl of CARDIGAN made some observations; after which Lord PANMURE said, it was against military law to grant the court-martial required, for Lord Raglan had condoned every complaint on his part by giving the noble Earl further employment, and to institute the inquiry would strike at the root of the discipline of the Army.

Viscount HARDINGE considered the order of Lord Raglan discretionary, and not imperative; and, as differences had arisen between two officers high in position, so that they could not act in concert for the interest of the country, it was necessary one of them should be recalled. He expressed the confidence the Government had in the Commander-in-Chief in the Crimea, and they could not with safety grant the inquiry.

The Duke of RICHMOND regretted the Earl of Lucan had brought this motion forward. He ought to have read the order "advance in pursuit," not "advance and attack."

The Earl of DENBY saw great difficulties in granting the court-martial; but he thought the publication of Lord Raglan's second letter injudicious, as it placed the Earl of Lucan on the horns of a dilemma. The noble Earl had entreated to have the fullest inquiry into his military character; and, though it was refused, he had made his statement in that House, and he might with safety leave his character in the hands of his country.

The Duke of NEWCASTLE hoped the matter would go no further, and that the House would not establish a most dangerous precedent.

Lord HARDWICKE differed from the noble Duke, and considered the Earl of Lucan justified in taking advantage of the privilege of sitting in that House to vindicate his character.

After some observations from the Marquis of Breadalbane, the Earl of Lucan, and the Duke of Newcastle, the correspondence was ordered to be laid on the table.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

THE NEWSPAPER-STAMP.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, after stating the circumstances which led to the Newspaper-stamp Bill of Mr. Gladstone, proceeded to show that the measure now proposed was identical with that bill in principle and substance. Whatever credit might be due to the adoption of it, therefore, was due, not to him, but to Mr. Gladstone. The object of the resolutions which he meant to propose was to abolish the legal definition of a newspaper, and extend the existing rules with respect to newspapers to all printed periodical publications which appear at intervals not greater than thirty-one days. The present penalty for publishing news without a stamp will be repealed, leaving it optional with the proprietors of any such periodical either to stamp any portion of their impression or to leave it altogether unstamped. In other respects the law will be the same as it is as regards the postal charge; and all newspapers or periodical publications which avail themselves of the postal privilege will be subject to the present rule regarding registration and duties. The effect of the proposed change he went on to describe as follows:—

With regard to such publications as the *Builer*, the *Athenaeum*, the *Medical Times*, and the *Medical Gazette*, they will be permitted by the law to retain that indulgence which they now possess, practically in defiance of the law, or at least unsanctioned by the law. They will be permitted to retain that exemption, and to stamp such portion of their impression as they think fit. The same legislation will be extended to the whole of the rest of the press, the political newspapers, such as the *Times*, or the *Morning Herald*, or the *Morning Advertiser*. They will be subject to precisely the same rules as the *Athenaeum* now is subject to. They will be permitted to stamp that portion of their impression which they wish to send by post; and if there be any demand independent of that which is wanted by transmission by post, they will be permitted to publish that portion of their impression without a stamp. Beyond that change I do not propose to go. The bill which I beg leave to submit to the House will be confined to that. I would now, Sir, with the permission of the House, examine certain objections which have been made to this plan, and which have been represented as fatal to its successful operation. One of these is, that there would be a great confusion in the printing establishments, in printing a portion of the impression on stamped paper and a portion on unstamped paper, and, consequently, loss to the proprietor of the newspaper. Now, Sir, I have used my best endeavours to ascertain how far that objection is well founded. In the first place, it may be stated that the number of the existing class papers—of which a return has been moved by my hon. friend the member for Westminster—is not less than 137; all of which publications conduct their business with a mixed circulation of stamped and unstamped copies. With regard to any one of that numerous class of quasi newspapers, the presumption is, that no practical difficulty is found in a mixed circulation. The principal newspaper, however, which publishes a portion of its impression upon stamped and a portion on unstamped paper, is the periodical which is familiarly known to all the members of the House—namely, *Punch*. *Punch* published 425,000 stamped copies in the year 1851. I understand the gross circulation is about 40,000 a week, of which 8000 are printed on stamped paper, and about 32,000 on unstamped paper. I have had an interview with the manager of that periodical (laughter)—not for the purpose of inquiring into the manner in which that interesting publication is compiled, but in order to inquire into the economical part of the management—and he was so good as to inform me that not the least difficulty arose with regard to the printing of that paper, that no confusion in printing the mixed impression partly on stamped and partly on unstamped paper was occasioned; and he described the difficulty to be, in his idea, altogether imaginary. I have made further inquiries of the publisher of the *Athenaeum*, which is a publication printed partly on stamped and partly on unstamped paper, and I was informed that about 3000 copies of the *Athenaeum* are printed on stamped and 4200 on unstamped paper. The gentleman connected with that paper stated that there was no practical difficulty in conducting that paper. It was said, moreover, that the number of stamped copies varied according to the greater or less demand for certain numbers; and, moreover, that at the period of the year when many gentlemen went out of London, there was a greater demand for stamped copies, in order that they might be sent through the post, instead of being furnished in town, but that these temporary variations were easily adjusted, and that there was neither confusion nor loss. I have further consulted the proprietor of the *ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS*—a gentleman of great experience with regard to the management of newspapers. He has brought the circulation of that paper up to nearly 140,000 copies a week, and he is intimately acquainted with the management and printing of newspapers. He gave me his confident opinion, that no difficulty would arise in the management of his newspaper, or in the management of any daily newspaper, from a mixed system of stamped and unstamped copies. Another objection more serious connected with the management of a newspaper has been presented to me by various persons who, both orally and in writing, have described a proposition which repealed the compulsory Newspaper-stamp as a measure most dangerous to society. It is described to me as a measure which will open the floodgates of sedition and blasphemy, which will inundate the country with a licentious and immoral press, which will undermine the foundations of society, and sow the seeds of revolution throughout the land. Now these expressions are not an exaggerated representation of opinions which have been expressed to me from many quarters, since this measure has been in contemplation. I regret to say that my right hon. friend the member for the University of Oxford is considered an accomplished advocate of these wicked and dangerous designs. Now, Sir, I need not say, that if her Majesty's Government believed there was any foundation for these views, or for any appreciable part of these views, they would not propose this measure, which I beg leave to submit to the House. They have been moved from the Ministry of the Government, as the Ministry of the Government, in the loyalty and good disposition of the people (Cheers); and they do not believe that any increased facility of public discussion through the press will tend to any such consequences as those which have been described (Hear, hear). But we are not left merely to conjecture or indirect reasoning with regard to the probable character of a cheap unstamped press. There are already in existence a large class of publications which, not containing news, are not subject to the stamp, are published at a very cheap rate, and circulated most extensively throughout the country. But, though these publications do not contain news, they are, if it were true that the public of this country had no insatiable appetite for a licentious and immoral press, of a very different character from that which we now are. I beg to call the attention of the Committee to some of these publications. The *ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS* circulates 140,000 a week, and though published only once a week has a circulation approaching nearly to that of the *Times*. Its contents are unexceptionable (Hear, hear), its price is only 6d., and it is admitted into almost every family in the country (Hear). There are unstamped publications sold at a less cost, and circulating largely among the lower classes. Among them is the *London Journal* (of which, probably, few of us have heard) which circulates (I am credibly informed) 700,000 a week (which, if true, would be a circulation of 25,000,000 a year, or 10,000,000 more than the annual circulation of the *Times*), and the price being only one penny. I have examined some of the numbers, and find the contents in point of morality, if not wholly unexceptionable, at all events by no means compared with the contents of the *ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS*. It resembles rather the *People's Friend* publications. There is also the *Family Herald*, a daily periodical, with a circulation of some 240,000. These facts show that the public of this country have a taste for a class of publications of a cheap unstamped publication, which is not only innocent in character, but at all events free from the dangerous elements which have been apprehended. I need not say that this class of publications is not now existing. And that there were several newspapers of a higher price, but of a similar character—the *Age*, the *Argus*, and the *Satirist*, which have ceased to exist. So that it seems that no immoral or licentious periodical is long-lived or enjoys

an extensive circulation (Hear). Another objection is that the measure will lead to the establishment of one class of periodicals for the rich, another for the poor; one for the upper and educated classes, and another for the lower and uneducated classes; and that there will be a class of cheap newspapers intended exclusively for the poorer orders. To a certain extent that is so now. There are newspapers published at a very cheap rate, weekly or several times a week, for the poorer classes—as, for instance, the *News of the World*, and *Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper* have a large circulation, and that is owing to the price being 3d. instead of 6d. And assuming this to be the case to a certain extent, I am not aware that there is any reason to regret it. If the taste of the poorer classes prevents them from enjoying the periodicals prepared for the richer orders; and if another kind of periodical rises up adapted to their wants, and moral and useful in character, it is an advantage that such a kind of periodical should circulate among them; and we are not to assume that periodicals published for the working classes will be printed with immoral or anti-social doctrines. At all events, those who devote themselves to the improvement of education and the division of sound opinions among the masses, will find a favourable field for their philanthropic exertions, and will be enabled to counteract any mischievous or anarchical opinions circulated through channels of that description.

Should the House decide in favour of the resolutions, it would be his duty to call upon them to provide for the deficiency which would be occasioned by the change. The present duty produced £100,000, one-half of which, it is estimated, would be lost by the change. As regards the cheap postage of books and pamphlets, he had not included that in his bill; but, as he fully admitted the importance of a cheap book-post, he should be quite ready, if the House concurred with him, to take the matter into consideration as a separate question. He concluded by moving the following resolutions:—

That it is expedient to amend the laws relating to the Stamp-duties on new papers, and to provide for the transmission by post of printed periodical publications.

That any periodical publication, to be entitled to the privilege of transmission and retransmission by the post, shall be printed on paper stamped for denoting the Stamp-duty imposed by law on a newspaper, printed on the like number sheets or pieces of paper, and of the like dimensions, with respect to the superficies, of the letterpress thereof.

That printed newspapers (British, colonial, or foreign) shall be transmitted by the post between places in the United Kingdom and her Majesty's colonies or foreign countries, or between any ports or places beyond the sea (whether through the United Kingdom or not), either free of postage or subject to such rate of postage not exceeding 2d. for each newspaper, irrespective of any charge for foreign postage, as the Commissioners of the Treasury and her Majesty's Postmaster-General, with their consent, shall from time to time think fit.

Mr. GLADSTONE deprecated discussion before the printing of the Bill, but regretted some of the changes which had been made in his bill. He regretted that registration should have been retained as a condition of the right of postage. The right hon. gentleman had made no allusion to the question of copyright, which was a very important consideration, for there could be no doubt but that newspapers have a right to protection as far as regarded their leading articles, foreign correspondence, and literature. He was aware how difficult it was to lay down a plan, because, as far as related to news, it might be thrown into such a variety of forms as to render it hopeless to trace it; but he hoped that attention would be given to the subject, to ascertain if the law of copyright could not be extended in some way so as to meet the case.

Sir F. BAKING said, the loss of £200,000 of revenue at the present period was a very serious consideration. He had no objection to the bringing in of the bill, but he warned the House not to incur such a serious loss until they had before them the Financial Statement for the year.

Mr. M. GINSON objected to considering the proposition upon the fiscal principles, and preferred the plan of Mr. Gladstone to that of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He hoped soon to see a cheap postage system for all printed matter.

After some observations from Mr. MacGregor and Mr. Warner, Mr. BENTINCK said, the measure would effect a revolution in the press; and, unless great care were taken, the country would be inundated with licentious publications.

Mr. LAING said, it was of paramount importance that no taxation should be given up at the present crisis, nor until they could see more clearly how the exigencies of the war were to be provided for.

Mr. BRIGHT thought the £200,000 should not be considered as an insuperable difficulty to the adoption of this plan. He knew of a great number of publications daily and otherwise in Manchester and elsewhere, which would appear when this change should be carried out. He quoted an article from the *Times* of last May condemning the tax on newspapers in every possible way, and expressed his conviction that the *Times* would at once acknowledge the quotation, and abide by every word it contained. He was delighted to have so high an authority in favour of his views.

After some observations from Mr. Packer, Sir H. Willoughby, Mr. J. G. Phillimore, and Mr. Bentinck, the resolutions were agreed to, the House resumed, and they were ordered to be reported to-day.

MEDICAL ATTENDANCE IN THE EAST.

Mr. A. STAFFORD called attention to the medical arrangements for the sick and wounded soldiers in the East, and expressed a wish to ascertain from the Government what measures they were adopting to prevent the recurrence of such evils as they had so much reason to deplore.

Mr. PEEL stated at some length what had been recently done at Smyrna, Balaclava, and Scutari; and also stated further measures for the efficiency of the medical department which were being carried on by the Government.

Lord PALMERSTON said, there was no duty more imperative upon the Government than that of attending to the sick and wounded, and his noble friend at the head of the War Department was fully impressed with this necessity.

After some observations from Colonel Knox, Captain Duncombe, and other members, the House went into Committee of Supply, and the remainder of the evening was occupied in the discussion of the Estimates.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

POLICY OF PRUSSIA.

Lord LYNCHURST called attention to the position which Prussia now occupied with regard to the war, and the negotiations now in progress at Vienna. After premising that the aggressions of Russia, especially with respect to the navigation of the Danube, had seriously imperilled the interests of every Germanic nation, the noble Lord traced the conduct of the Prussian Government throughout the whole period that had elapsed since the invasion of the Principalities by the late Czar. This conduct, he declared, evinced a degree of servility and vacillation, which destroyed all possibility of placing faith in the professions of Prussia. The Government of that country had always subserved Russian interests, and seemed to be guided by Russian inspiration. Acquitting the Prussian nation of any complicity in the policy of their rulers, he exhorted the British Ministers to pursue their course, whether of war or diplomacy, in perfect independence of Prussia.

The Earl of CLARENDON confessed that the charges of vacillation and timidity against the Prussian Government were too well-founded. Prussia had not been admitted as a party in the proceedings of the Vienna Conference, although he did not apprehend that all hope was lost of inducing that country to become a firm and active member of the Alliance against Russia—a result to which considerations for her honour and interest alike pointed. The result hitherto of Prussian policy had been to frustrate union, and to prevent a united tone and uniform language on the part of Germany towards Russia. The issue had, in fact, been to prevent that union which would have gone far to secure a lasting peace, and to give to Germany those guarantees of which she stands so much in need. Prussia was in an isolated, and therefore in a false position, and although that fact might give satisfaction to her enemies, it was deeply regretted by the Allies, and deeply felt by her own patriotic people. It was a position from which neither honour nor advantage could be derived, and one which both this and the French Government were most anxious to put an end to (Hear, hear). He could assure their Lordships that no exertions should be spared to secure the free co-operation of Prussia, while everything should be done in a friendly spirit, and with due regard to the honour and feelings of a great and independent nation.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

HUNGARY AND POLAND.

Lord W. GRAHAM, in pursuance of a notice which he had given, moved for a resolution in this country, in relation to the expression attributed to a member of the Government, that it was the effect that no "settlement of the Eastern question" would be possible unless Poland and Hungary were restored.

Lord PALMERSTON expressed his gratification in having secured the services of Sir R. Peel as a colleague in his Administration. With respect to the question proposed to him, he remarked that the Austrian Ambassador was fully aware that the British Government considered the preservation of the integrity of the Austrian Empire, so far as Hungary was concerned, essential to the peace of Europe. Admitting that the present condition of Poland constituted a standing menace to Germany, he submitted that the solution of that difficulty should be left to the German Powers themselves; declaring also that no point involved in that question would be raised at the pending conference in Vienna.

COLONY OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

Mr. ROBERT CRISP called attention to the delay which had arisen in the introduction of the promised representative institutions in that colony, through the act of the local authorities.

Lord PALMERSTON assured the House that faith would be kept with the colonies as to the establishment of a representative government in Newfoundland.

Mr. Lowe having remarked upon the critical condition of the colony of Newfoundland at the date of the last despatches.

Sir G. GREY observed that the disturbances which had occurred among the gold-diggers had been promptly suppressed. The constitution prepared for the colony would, he added, be shortly presented for consideration to Parliament.

SANDHURST.

Col. NORTH moved a series of resolutions relative to the Military College at Sandhurst, with the view of extending and improving the means of education for officers in the Army afforded in that establishment. He proposed, also, that free education and maintenance should be granted in the College for the orphan sons of officers of the Army, Navy, or Marines.

Some considerable discussion took place on the motion, and calls were made for a division. Ultimately, however, Lord Palmerston consented to refer the subject to a Committee; and on this intimation Col. North withdrew his resolutions.

OPENING OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM AND NATIONAL GALLERY ON SUNDAY.

Sir J. WALMSLEY proposed a resolution setting forth the expediency of throwing open the collections of natural history and art in the British Museum and National Gallery for public inspection after morning service on Sundays. So far from occasioning any desecration of the day, the opportunity to visit these collections, he contended, would tend to purify the tastes, elevate the character, and deepen the religious sentiments of the people. Sunday was emphatically the poor man's day, and it was only just to furnish him with the means of spending it most beneficially to his mind and body.

Mr. JIGGS supported the motion, contending that the arguments which had been in times past advanced against similar propositions were based upon superstitious ideas respecting the observance of the Sabbath. The existing restrictions caused most invidious and injurious distinction between the rich and poor, and formed part of the too extensive mass of class legislation which disfigured our code of laws.

The motion was opposed on religious grounds by Mr. L. Davies, Mr. Drummond, and the Marquis of Blandford.

Mr. A. PELLATT remarked that a desire for a stricter observance of Sunday was spreading among the public. He proposed an amendment, suggesting that the Museum and National Gallery should be opened on Saturdays and Mondays, as being more convenient to the working classes.

Mr. KINSAIRD believed that the motion would lead to results which would finally deprive the working man of his day of rest.

Lord STANLEY considered that the objections to the motion were founded upon respectable prejudices. Intellectual and moral improvement formed a part of religion, and constituted a fitting exercise for the day set apart for sacred uses. To the numerous individuals occupied during the week with manual labour, there was no opportunity for acquiring such improvement except upon Sunday. There was no other time or means of continuing through life the education which the members of the working class were enabled to begin in their youth. As a matter of comparison, he saw no reason to keep the Museum shut while Hampton Court and Kew Gardens were open; and, in a religious point of view, denied the right of imposing compulsory restrictions on the consciences of the people.

Mr. E. BALL opposed the motion.

Mr. GOTTBERN, adhering to the amendment brought forward by Mr. Pellatt, promised on behalf of the trustees of the British Museum that the establishment should be thrown open on Saturdays if that proceeding were proved to suit the convenience of the public. Respecting the original motion, he urged that if the Museum were opened on Sunday the precedent would be set for allowing shows, theatrical entertainments, and amusements of every character on the seventh day.

Mr. W. J. FOX contended that the question was not one of theology, but of property. The institutions under discussion were maintained by public money; they belonged altogether to the people; and it was unjust to lock the people out on the only day when they could enjoy them. Declaring that Sabbatarianism was a modern invention, and the creed of a minority, he proceeded to argue that art was religious in its tendencies, and had been adopted by the members of every sect to propagate and popularise their principles.

Lord PALMERSTON opposed the motion, believing that the respectful observance of Sunday was either a symptom or a cause of morality and good conduct among the people. Individual actions might be left to the consciences of individuals, but Parliament should not sanction a step which would shock the religious scruples of a very large proportion of the community.

Mr. BARROW and Mr. HEYWOOD having spoken.

Sir J. WALMSLEY replied, offering to withdraw his motion. The members opposed to it, however, insisted on recording their votes, and a division took place. For the original motion, 48; against it, 235: majority against the motion, 187.

The amendment was then also put, but withdrawn without a division.

SANITARY REFORM IN BALACLAVA.—Colonel Harding, who came forward at the eleventh hour to make good what the culpable neglect of his two predecessors had made bad, must surely be in constant communication with the Board of Health, for all his measures and arrangements savour of Whitehall rather than of the expedition to the East. He has come to the conclusion that the place is hopelessly swamped with mud, impregnated with filth, deluged with abominations, and that every inch of ground, each house, each stone, is pregnant with the germs of disease. Having settled this point in his mind, the present Commandant did not, as is the custom in the army, sit down and leave the case alone as hopeless and irremediable, but he resolved to pull the town down, to destroy it utterly, to burn it with fire, and to build up anew Balacava in the place of the old one. This resolution is now being carried out. For, after all, this town, though a nuisance, is a necessity, and we are compelled to hold it, even if it were to become the very cradle of pestilence and the occupation costs us hundreds of lives per week. The shortest manner of dealing with Balacava would have been to burn the place outright. But, as we want the houses for stores, offices, and quarters, there were some very natural objections to this summary plan of radical reform. Colonel Harding's method is to pull down one house after another, and to erect wooden houses in their places. The cellars are cleaned out, and the filth and rubbish brought to the light of day, heaped up in the open places, and burnt. For days past such fires have been burning in all parts of Balacava, and a dense cloud of black, stinking smoke hangs over the town. The stones of the ruined houses are carried away, broken up, and used for the improvement of the roads. The places where the houses stood are levelled, and large quantities of quicklime strewed over them. It is a curious and interesting sight to watch the fatigue parties of soldiers, in their uncouth and motley winter dresses, invading a doomed house. In they march, with axes and picks, and in a few minutes out come from the windows and by the doors, abominations, old and new, foul straw, broken bottles, soiled rags, bits of biscuit, bones with the blackened and shrivelled flesh still sticking to them, mouldy cheese, piles of broken furniture covered with bugs, and whole heaps of unalloyed, indescribable, unmentionable dirt are thrown up into a funeral pile—a matchbox is produced and a wisp of straw, the pile is properly lighted, and a dense cloud of smoke rising up proclaims that another act of purification has commenced. Next comes the work of the axe and the pick. The tiles and rafters are pushed up, and come rattling down, to the great amusement of the bystanders, who are numerous; for the demolition of a house always attracts a crowd. Then the earthwork and masonry of the walls is pushed out, the floorings and verandahs come down, and the posts and heavy woodwork follow in due course. Part of the fatigue party outside separate the wood from the rubbish and stones, and others at once cart away the stones and level the place. Where the morning sun shone on a house, there the evening sun shines on a smooth level place, whitened over with lime and prepared for house-building, in the sense of the Camp. And the next morning brings another fatigue party, headed by carpenters, and loaded with posts and planks. Holes are dug, posts fixed, the place is crowded and busy all day, and in the evening there stands a large wooden hut. Such huts spring up by enchantment; and all that is now going forward proves how much can be done if these in authority have but the sense and the will to keep things in order.—*Letter from Balacava, Feb. 28.*

THE NEW GOLD DISCOVERIES IN BRAZIL.—St. Louis de Maranhão is a city of Brazil, situated two degrees south of the Equator, is a seaport and capital of the province, with a population of from 30,000 to 40,000 inhabitants. At some leagues from Maranhão, in the interior of the country, lies the wild valley of Maracassú, entirely covered by virgin forests, and enclosed by two navigable rivers, the Turiaçu and the Gurupá. The fugitive slaves who made this valley a refuge from the pursuit of their masters have been for some time exchanging gold in the rough state for such supplies as the neighbourhood could furnish them with; and this gold, they said, was found in abundance on the surface. Under these circumstances, a company was formed at Rio, with a capital of £1,500,000 francs, and an expedition dispatched to investigate the numerous legends, said to be between the Turiaçu and the Gurupá. Three of the principal mariners who have been explored all three of extreme richness and easily worked, at least in the rainy season; and even in the dry season the necessary water may be obtained at very little expense by rivulets led from the rivers that border or cross the valley. The soil is composed of quartz, schistus, and gneiss. The numerous gold mines extend, according to the explorers, to a chain of mountains called the Serra da Gramma, isolated only by Indians in a state of nature. During their short stay the exploring party acquired some magnificent specimens of the richness of the earth. One of the miners brought away a bit of quartz of about six inches in width, four in length, and two and a half in thickness; and, besides fragments reserved for analysis, this stone yielded ten ounces of gold.

FRENCH JOURNALISM AND THE WAR.—The editors of all the Paris journals were summoned to the Ministry of the Interior, one day last week, and told that in future they would not be permitted to publish any intelligence respecting the movements of the French Army, even should it relate merely to the transfer of a regiment from one part of France to another. A representative of one of the papers inquired, by way of asking for an example, whether they were not to be at liberty to reproduce from the *Journal de Toulon* the paragraphs which that journal was constantly in the habit of publishing about the military movements in that part. The answer was that the Toulon journal would no longer be allowed to publish those paragraphs; that all the prefects had been enjoined by a ministerial circular to enforce the same secrecy in the provinces which the Government was determined to enforce in the metropolis; and that if, by any accident, military news of the kind alluded to should appear in a provincial newspaper, the Paris press would nevertheless not be at liberty to adopt it. The editors were at the same time enjoined not to report a word of what might be said about the possible journey of the Emperor to the Crimea.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The examinations before Mr. Roebuck's Committee continue to exhibit the same sad tale of incapacity and mismanagement; but as, in an ill-regulated household, it is impossible to trace who is the real culprit answerable for the reduction of your dinner-service, or the smashing of your chimney ornaments; so at Woolwich or Southampton, at Kulalee, Scutari, or Balacava, we know that there has been any amount of short-comings and blunderings, causing not only a deep blot on the glory of England, but, what is of far more moment, a fearful and needless quantity of misery to the bravest and best-conducted army that ever left our shores; yet it seems quite hopeless to attempt to find out who is to blame. Mr. Stafford, maddened as he seems to have been by the state of the hospitals at Scutari, hardly ventures to impute neglect or misconduct to any one in particular; in fact, he says that in almost every case he found it impossible to find out to what department it was proper to apply for the redress of the most crying abominations. "I never could find out where the duties of one department ended, and that of another commenced;" when, horrified at the persistence of a nuisance almost too disgusting to describe, he offered his own money to pay for its removal, he could get no one to accept it. Every word that has been written home by the *Times* Commissioner as to the absence of half the necessaries and nearly all the comforts of life in the hospitals, has been repeated by him before the Committee, and corroborated, nay, extended, by other witnesses; yet it appears that before he went out the Duke of Newcastle (whose *bond fides* no one doubts) assured him the fund he was about to administer would be totally useless, "as, if a man wanted champagne or anything else more expensive, he would only have to ask for it." It was only the other day that a Cabinet Minister assured the House of Commons that by the last returns the number of the British army fit for duty amounted to nearly 30,000; per contra, we have the word of the Duke of Cambridge that it did not then much exceed 12,000. Surely here there is a chance of fixing the cause of a grave error. How was Mr. Gladstone misled, by whom, and for what purpose? If this false estimate of our numbers was believed, as seems likely, at Lord Raglan's head-quarters, it would at once explain why there could be no recovery from, but rather an increase in the sickness of the troops. All accounts concur in representing that over-work had more to do with it than any other cause; and if 12,000 actual men were put to do the work of 30,000 in buckram, the reason why they should be five nights out of seven in the trenches may easily be comprehended. In the meantime public expectation of the immediate receipt of important intelligence from the Crimea is stretched to the utmost. The City is in a fever, and the Clubs participate in the disorder, only in a minor degree—the fortunes of their denizens not depending to the same extent on the alternatives of Peace or War; and, like the human body in a similar condition, have broken out into an eruption—not of humours but of rumours. Tuesday was a regular field-day for the *can-caniers*. The Turks had been defeated at Eupatoria—the Allies had been beaten in an attack on Sebastopol—the Austrians were making separate terms with Russia—the French Emperor was to go to the Crimea at the end of the week. Luckily, up to the present moment, none of the tales have been justified.

Sir Benjamin Hall has introduced his bill for the better local management of the metropolis. Probably never before was so clear a case for reform made out—for this is, perhaps, the only occasion on record when, upon a similar proposition, no bold Tory was found to get up and assure the House that no alteration was wanted, and that the present system was as perfect as it was humanly possible it should be. Sir Benjamin conducted his case with considerable tact, using no theoretical arguments, but confining himself to a mere statement of facts, a *catalogue raisonné* of some of the more glaring and amusing absurdities perpetrated by the hundred paving, lighting, and other boards who despoil over the metropolis. The general principle seems to be, that—in most parishes—for every £300 laid out on the roads, £400 is paid to officers for seeing that it is laid out. The climax of absurdity is attained in Westminster, where the division of the authority of the several boards usually runs along the centre of the street; so that if they did not agree as to the time of watering (as actually happened), one-half the thoroughfare would always be wet while the other half was dry. It seems that the local management is better in the City than elsewhere—a fact, by-the-by, which, from the apparent condition of the thoroughfares therein, one would scarcely have guessed—and in the wealthy parish of St. Pancras about the worst. It is to be hoped that the provisions of Sir B. Hall's bill, will not be frittered away in Committee, which has been too often the case where the patronage and jobbery of powerful communities have to be fought against. The fact is that London has hitherto been considered too much as an ordinary town, instead of (as was well said in the debate on Friday) as a built-up province, with the population, and more than the wealth of a secondary kingdom. What is wanted, is a simple uniform system of management for the whole extent of the metropolis, headed by an *Edile*, a great officer of State, something like the *Préfet de la Seine*, in Paris.

Any one might have guessed that the Great Exhibition of 1851, in Hyde-park, was sure to have a crowd of imitators. The copies have not hitherto prospered like the original: that at Dublin, though well managed in most respects, did not pay, and that at New York was, from the unpunctuality of its opening to the disasters of its close, one of the completest failures on record. If we may believe a letter addressed to the *Daily News*, signed "W. G. Rogers, carver in wood to the Queen," the management thereof was not more respectable than the result was remunerative. It appears that Mr. Rogers sent to the New York Exhibition certain works of art, under a guarantee that they should be returned free of charge, and an assurance from the "sole agent for Europe" that the goods should be thoroughly insured. For nearly a year after the close of the Exhibition he could hear nothing of his property, though he learnt that the jury had awarded him one of the ten silver medals. At last, "being accidentally in the London Dock," he recognises his packages on the wharf, and on getting them home and opening them he finds breakage to the estimated cost of £114 10s., for which he sends in his bill to the "sole agent." But the "sole agent" goes immediately to France, and poor Mr. Rogers can hear no more about the matter, until he does so in the unpleasant form of a claim from the broker for £15 3s. 10d. for duty and dock charges. So much for the "guarantee" and "insurance."

The sale of the Bernal Collection still goes on. To hear the prices that are given for the merest little dots of cups and saucers, no one could imagine there was such a thing as a war or an Income-tax. A whole flock of real sheep would be dear at the price given for a couple of Shepherdesses in Dresden or Sevres. We read of "an old stone jug, with silver mountings, six inches high," and that "it seemed probable the lot would go for only £7 or £8, but suddenly the biddings rose to £80!" Surely the catalogues should end as the old play-bills did—"No money returned!"

The mania for forming mining companies appears to be on the increase. The local share lists contain the names of twenty-five mining companies, with a subscribed capital of about one million and a half; all of which, with one exception, were established last year.

A LARGE NUGGET.—An immense block of gold is on its way to the Paris Exposition. It is the largest that has ever yet been seen, and weighs 160 lbs., of which fifteen only are of quartz, all the rest being pure gold. It has been sent from the county of Calaveras, in the state of California, and, according to the *New York Herald*, its value is 38,916 dollars. It belonged to a digging party of five miners, who sold it to an American for 40,000 dollars. The block is nearly ten times longer than that found in 1833 at Sonora, which weighed 247 ounces, and was valued at only 4250 dollars.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

Sunday being the natal day of the Princess Louisa Carolina Alberta, born March 18, 1848, and the Court being at Osborne Palace Isle of Wight, the whole of the fleet at Spithead fired a Royal salute in honour of the event.

The health of the Empress Elizabeth of Austria is improving so rapidly that no more bulletins will be issued. The infant Archduchess is doing well.

The Grand Dukes Michael and Nicholas left Sebastopol on the 13th, for St. Petersburg.

The report of an early visit of the Emperor of the French to this country has been revived. It is said that the Empress will probably be the guest of her Majesty at Buckingham Palace shortly after Easter.

The Queen of Prussia has proceeded for a few days on a visit to her twin-sister, the Queen of Saxony.

On Monday the French Emperor reviewed, in the Place du Carrousel, the Grenadiers of the Guards destined for the Crimea, or who are, as some will have it, to accompany his Majesty to the scene of action.

Her Majesty has granted a pension of £300 a year to the widow of the late Mr. John Montagu, Colonial Secretary at the Cape of Good Hope.

The anniversary service for the repose of the soul of the Empress Joséphine was celebrated on Saturday in the church of Rueil, where her remains are buried. Some personages belonging to the Imperial household, and a number of persons from Paris were present.

The Comte de Montemolin, the Infant Don Sebastian, and the Count and Countess of Chambord, assisted at the funeral of Don Carlos, which took place at Trieste on the 16th inst.

The Earl of Aberdeen, it is understood, will shortly leave England for Egypt, in order to see his son, Lord Haddo, who contemplates prolonging his *sejour* in the East for some time to come. Lord Haddo is at present in the neighbourhood of Cairo.

The Archduke William arrived at St. Petersburg on the 11th, and was received in full state by the Emperor and the other members of the Imperial family. The Archduke was present at the funeral obsequies of the Emperor Nicholas.

The health of the aged King Louis of Bavaria is greatly improved; and, as soon as the state of the weather permits his travelling, he is going with his physician, Dr. Becker, to Italy for change of air.

The Earl of Carlisle sailed from Kingstown for Holyhead on the 15th. It is said to be his intention to be in Dublin again on Tuesday, the 10th Ap. A levee will be held on Wednesday, 16th April, and a drawing-room on Thursday, 16th April.

Private accounts from St. Petersburg state that the Empress Dowager is very ill.

Prince Maximilian of Thurn and Taxis is about to proceed to St. Petersburg to congratulate the new Emperor on his accession to the throne.

The widow of Don Carlos, who is residing at Trieste, has requested the Spanish Government to allow the body of her husband to be removed to Spain, and deposited in the vaults of the Royal family.

The *Cologne Gazette* of the 18th inst. announces the departure of the King of Prussia for Dresden.

Lord Panmure, Minister of War, on Monday took possession of the splendid mansion in Belgrave-square, *vis-à-vis* to Lord John Russell in Chesham-place, and lately tenanted by the Right Hon. Sir C. Wood, the First Lord of the Admiralty.

The Duke and Duchess de Nemours have arrived at Cadiz to pay a visit to the Duke and Duchess de Montpensier; and the Duke of Saxe-Coburg has left the same port for England.

Baron Goldsmid and Sir Joseph Bailey, the principal owners of the Birkenhead property, have signed a preliminary agreement, by which they bind themselves to accept 13s. in the pound for their property in the docks, payable in three and six years, with interest at the rate of four per cent. The amount, altogether, will be £1,300,000.

The King of Prussia has given permission to have the magnificent statue of the late King, Frederick William III., sent to the Paris Exhibition. The Prince of Prussia has also allowed to be forwarded to the same Exhibition the beautiful Album presented to him by the Rhenish provinces on the occasion of his marriage.

A letter from Rome of the 10th, in the *Univers*, states that a Mr. Palmer, represented as a distinguished man at Oxford, had a few days before read his recantation of Protestantism, and been received into the Roman Catholic church.

It is said that Count Nesselrode will visit Vienna as soon as the deliberations of the Conference become critical.

Mr. Layard has fixed Thursday, 5th April, as the day for his installation as Lord Rector of Mansfield College, Abingdon.

A grand dinner was given by Prince Paul Esterhazy on the 16th inst. to the members of the Vienna Conference; at which all of them appeared, except the Russian Plenipotentiaries, who were prevented from attending.

The Queen of Spain has presented the Pope with six beautiful Andalusian horses.

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland and Lord Seaton, commanding the forces in Ireland, have been sworn Lords Justices of Ireland.

The visit of the Emperor Napoleon is much talked of at Constantinople, and the Sultan is every day inquiring from his Ministers whether any positive news has been received on the subject.

Mr. Charles Dickens has consented to visit Ashford to read his "Christmas Carol," on Tuesday next, for the benefit of the South-Eastern Railway Mechanics' Institution.

The celebrated pianist, Thalberg, is now at Turin, on his way to Vienna, where he intends superintending the production of one of his compositions.

At a general meeting of the Royal Academy of Arts, last week, Mr. E. M. Ward was elected a Royal Academician, in the room of the late Mr. J. J. Chalon.

A. M. Darius, formerly first bass singer of the theatre of Rouen, who is not less than 102 years old, and who is the oldest professional singer in France, is to sing in a concert which is to be given for the benefit of unemployed workmen.

Mr. Barry Charles Hampton Knight, son of Mr. Charles Knight, is appointed index-maker to the *London Gazette*.

Clesinger, the French sculptor, has lost the sight of one eye—at his work a chip of stone flew into it, and destroyed it.

Cardinal Macchi, the oldest member of the Sacred College, is stated to be so seriously ill as to have received the last Sacraments. Four Cardinals' hats are already vacant in consequence of deaths since the beginning of the year.

Last week Russian subjects residing in Brussels took the oath of fidelity to the Emperor Alexander II., in presence of M. de Creptowitch, the Russian Ambassador to the King of the Belgians.

A deputation from the Committee for the Reduction of the Duties on Wine had an interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Tuesday, at his official residence in Downing-street.

Mr. Scholefield, the member for Birmingham, has given notice of the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons, with a view to put down the adulteration of flour. Some cases of the kind have recently been discovered in the West Riding of Yorkshire, which have led to the conviction of several corn-millers.

The firemen of the London Brigade, together with the fire-engines appointed to proceed to the East to protect the hospital at Scutari, left London on Saturday last in the *Edina*, steam screw-ship.

In the event of the Cent Gardes quitting Paris, the cuirasses which they now wear will be exchanged for others made of aluminium, the metal lately discovered.

It is said to be the intention of Government to introduce their bill this week for the abolition of the testamentary jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical courts.

The quantity of malt made in the United Kingdom, in the year 1854, and charged with duty, amounted to 28,19,554 bushels, against 42,039,752 bushels made in 1853.

The subscriptions to the Patriotic Fund amount in Bombay to upwards of £10,000; and in Poona, and the other stations subordinate to the presidency, the call has been promptly responded to, as it has also been all over India.

An Italian railway company has obtained permission to construct a railway from Milan to Pavia. The same company is treating with the Sardinian Government for the construction of a line from Novara to Milan.

The passage from Dover to Calais has been made by some of the new steamers in one hour and twenty minutes.

The sick and wounded soldiers from the Crimea who have died in Liverpool are to be buried in one grave, over which a monument will be erected by public subscription.

THE EARTHQUAKE AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

THREE months since the hurricane which destroyed the British transports burst over the Black Sea with a fury not to be surpassed by the tornadoes of the Mexican Gulf; and on the 28th ult. Constantinople was shaken by an earthquake which, had it lasted long, might have been reckoned among the calamities of the human race. At five minutes past three in the afternoon the shock was felt, and it lasted, as nearly as can be computed, about half a minute. The motion was not the slow wavelike movement which marks the earthquakes that extend over whole continents, but a sharp, rapid, trembling, which caused every pane of glass and every tile on the housetop to rattle; it is possible, therefore, that the disturbance may have been merely local. But the violence of the movement was far beyond that which is generally felt in the earthquakes of the Ionian Islands and the coast of Asia Minor, and the chief fear that it inspired was that it might only be the prelude to a more severe visitation. Happily, although it was succeeded by a number of other shocks, each of the following movements diminished in violence, and the only harm done was caused by the first. Many persons were only aware of a single disturbance; but between three and five o'clock no less than six shocks were counted; two took place between seven and eight o'clock in the evening; and the last that was felt was at a few minutes before midnight. With the exception of the shock at ten minutes past seven o'clock, all these were slight, and might not have been remarked, but for the apprehensions that had been roused by the occurrence in the afternoon. The consternation caused by the great shock was extreme. The lower animals seem to have had some feeling of what was about to happen for several seconds before it was felt by human beings. Whether the vibration made itself known to them before it was perceived by man, or whether what is called instinct gave them a peculiar warning, it is certain that horses, both in the streets and stables, stood still and trembling for some time before the shock was felt; and for some minutes after they were in great terror. The motion was chiefly felt in the upper rooms of houses. Pera is situated on a hill, and the higher stories of some of its lofty buildings are at no small elevation above the level of the sea. In these rooms glasses were thrown off the tables, and persons who were standing were obliged to sit down, or to cling for support to some fixed object. The motion is described by one who happened to have mounted to the top of Galata Tower as that of a ship in a gale. The British Embassy is one of the most solid edifices in the country; but, being constructed at the summit of the Pera-hill, it was exposed to the full violence of the shock. A stack of its massive chimneys was thrown down, and the large square stones of which the walls are constructed are said to have been



BRIDGE AT BROUSSA.—FROM A SKETCH BY JAMES ROBERTSON, OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

displaced in certain parts. Every bell in the palace rang violently; and even in one or two churches the still larger masses of metal resounded dimly. A number of minarets in Stamboul and Pera were thrown down; and the large iron chimney of the building where the French bread is baked was broken short off by the shock. The bazaars are said to have been cracked in several places. If this be correct it will convey to all who have visited them an idea of the violence of the motion. The long low-arched passages, constructed of heavy stones, and, even in the height of summer, shutting out the heat and glare, and forming cool, shady tunnels, which invite the weary passer-by to enter, would seem to be the last kind of construction liable to be shaken by subterranean violence. Yet these are said to have been split in many parts, so as to require repair. Some of the large stone houses of Pera are also injured. Of the smaller houses one or two are in a very unsafe state. The wooden edifices have received no injury.

The motion increased in intensity during several seconds, and for a moment before its cessation it certainly seemed as if the house was coming down. In most cases the building seemed to be struck from without, and the feeling was as when two vessels come into collision. The motion then ceased abruptly.

After the shock was over there was much commotion in the place. Business was to a great degree suspended, and husbands and brothers hastened home to see if the female part of their families had received any injury from the convulsion, or terror it caused. The lower classes of the city were much frightened, and had recourse to prayers and supplications. The Turks in the neighbourhood of Galata Serai rushed out of their homes and crouched down in their attitude of devotion; while the Christians showed their terror by crossings and ejaculations after their various rituals. Many persons in the course of the day became anxious to retire to their wooden country houses, through an apprehension that a more severe shock would be felt in the course of a few hours; but next day the alarm had subsided.

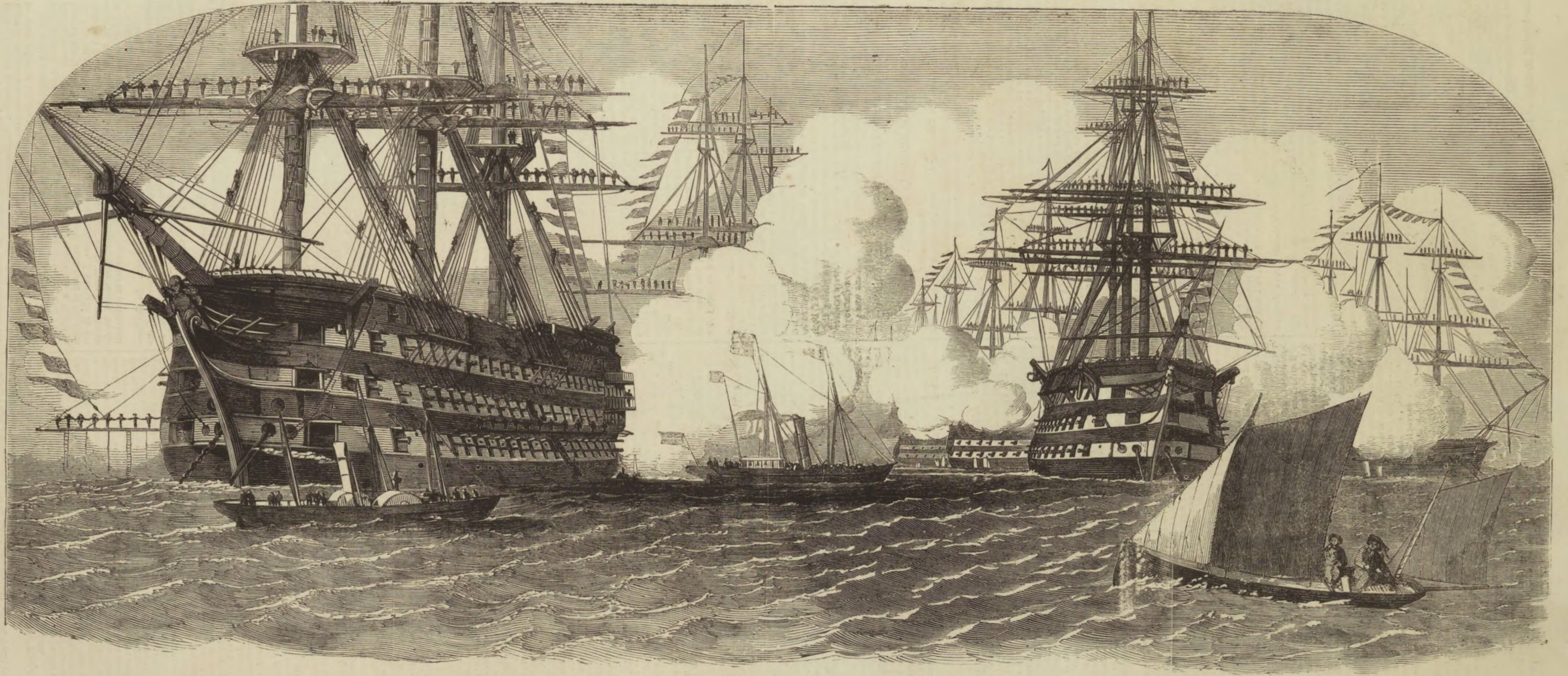
At Broussa the mischief done has been very serious. Letters from that place announce that, in addition to a vast number of mosques, many large khans, manufactories, and old houses were thrown down. Among the disasters was the destruction of a large silk factory. Sixty women, at work there, were buried under its ruins. Violent shocks were also felt some days before at Samos and the adjacent islands, and in Anatolia. At Macri the sea suddenly rose, and inundated the warehouses on the quay to the depth of two feet. The very frequent oscillations lasted some time.

THE LAKE AND RUINS OF INKERMAN.

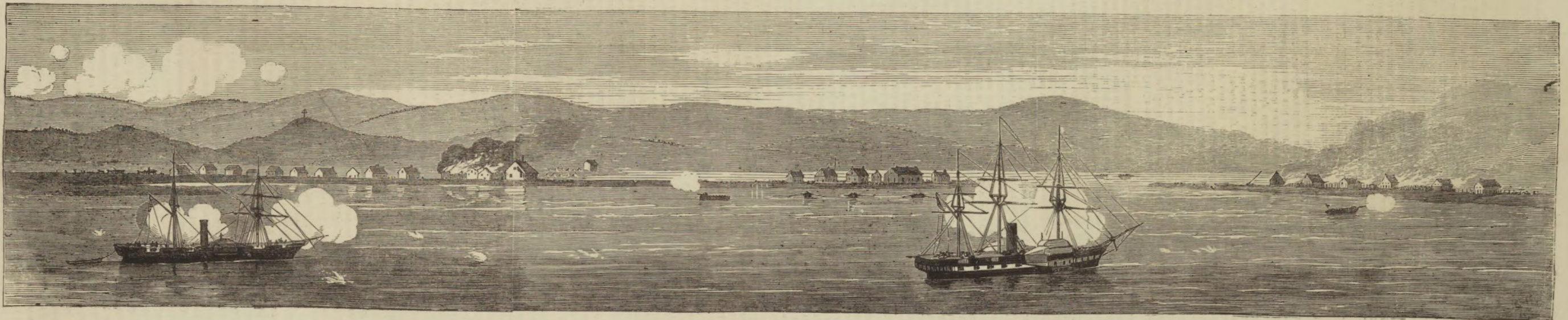
THE Crimean correspondent of the *Morning Herald*, who had seen our Artist while taking the Sketch below and several others, gives him credit



THE LAKE AND RUINS OF INKERMAN.



H.M. MAJESTY, IN "THE FAIRY," PASSING THROUGH THE FLEET AT SPITHEAD. — (SEE PAGE 286.)



THE STEAM-FRIGATES "LEOPARD" AND "FULTON" ATTACKING KAUBAN, ON THE CIRCASSIAN COAST. — (SEE PAGE 286.)

as will be seen, for going through his rather hazardous work in a very cool manner:—

I saw to-day the Sketching Correspondent of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, who had been permitted to sketch amusing groups about the Camp. He has made a very clever and graphic sketch of the still unburied Russian bodies which have been lying in a putrid state, bordering the river Inkerman, ever since the 5th of November. While engaged taking his sketch, the enemy fired a few shots upon him from the opposite side, but he succeeded in completing his work before he left the place.

Our Artist writes, March 3rd:—"The last week I passed in the front, near Sebastopol, in the batteries, trenches, and advanced works, and I send you the result. I had commenced a View of the Town, from a height in front of the Green-hill Battery; but having several shots fired at me from the Russian rifle pits, with rather unpleasant precision, I thought it advisable to defer the washing-in of this effect until some more favourable occasion, when the attention of the Russian sharpshooters might be directed to some other objects; for I assure you that the sound of a rifle ball is anything but pleasant to the ears of an amateur.

"I send you a View of the Lake and Ruins of Inkerman. In the foreground may still be seen several bodies, marking the retreat of the Russians from the field of battle. The reason of their remaining so long unburied was that the burying-parties were fired at by the Russian riflemen, who were hidden in the caves and behind the ruins on the opposite side of the lake.

"For the last fortnight," he continues, "the enemy have scarcely fired a shot at our works, consequently our casualties have been very few; their attention being chiefly directed to our neighbours, the French, who occupy the extreme left attack."

(We shall Engrave three other Sketches sent by our Artist next week.)

THE QUEEN AT SPITHEAD.

THE scene represented on the preceding page took place on Thursday week, when the *Fairy* steamer, with her Majesty on board, passed through the fleet at Spithead. The huge vessel to the left is the *Duke of Wellington*, with her flags and yards fully manned. The *Neptune*, on the right, and the *Royal George* astern of her, are both fully manned also. The neat little vessel on board of which the Queen has come to view her magnificent men-of-war, now nearly ready for the Baltic, shrinks into nothing beside those enormous ships. In such proximity the *Fairy* seems a most appropriate name for the Royal steamer.

On Tuesday last the Queen paid a visit to the flying squadron, previous to its departure for the Baltic. Soon after nine in the morning the advanced division of the fleet, consisting of—*Imperieuse*, 51 guns (screw); *Argalus*, 51 (screw); *Arrogant*, 47 (screw); *Tartar*, 21 (screw); *Archer*, 15 (screw); *Conflict*, 8 (screw); *Cruiser*, 17 (screw), lit fires and got up steam. At three o'clock precisely the *Fairy*, with the Queen on board, was making for Spithead, from Osborne Palace, when a Royal salute was fired from the fleet. The *Fairy* then steamed slowly alongside each vessel under orders, and passed from west to east, the ships manning rigging and heartily cheering the Queen. After which signal was made for the *Driver* to get under way, and the *Fairy* proceeded to between the Warner and Nab light-vessels, where the vessels passed in succession, manning the rigging and cheering. The farewell signal was hoisted on board the Royal yacht at 4.30, and the *Fairy* returned to Osborne.

THE ATTACK ON KERTCH.

THE Sketch engraved upon the preceding page, forwarded by an eye-witness of the affair, promises well for the campaign of 1855 in the Black Sea. The *Fulton*, a French vessel, under the command of Lieutenant Le Bris, and the *Leopard*, commanded by Captain Giffard, had been making a reconnaissance on Anapa and Kaffa; and, in passing by the small opening by which the waters of the Lake Kouban flow into the Black Sea, they discovered a column of Russians marching over the spit of sand that separates the lake from the sea. A few shells put this column to flight, and the boats of the *Leopard* landed an armed force, who destroyed some houses, and burnt a rather considerable store of provisions. They also found at this spot four 24-pound guns, two of brass and two mounted abreast, of cast iron. The excessive cold, however, and the snow then falling in abundance, compelled the Captain of the *Leopard* to recall his boats, and to return to the anchorage at Kertch.

On the night of the 23rd-24th Feb. the two vessels were surrounded with ice, but they were able to make way by six o'clock in the morning, and in two hours and a-half were abreast of the entrance to the lake. Captain Le Bris undertook to keep a party of Cossacks at a distance. The *Fulton* neared the coast, drove the cavalry from a village situated on the borders of the lake, and her shells set the houses on fire, though they were still covered with snow. During this time the armed paddle-box boats of the *Leopard* drove back on Anapa a company of infantry that appeared to be marching towards Tauran. Having made themselves masters of both sides of the lake, a force was disembarked that destroyed everything they found on the spot; ten 24-pounders, cast in 1850 and 1851, were rendered useless; and a large supply of provisions and warlike stores destroyed without any loss of life on our side, while that of the Russians was considerable.

The following despatches from Tuesday's *Gazette* give the official report of the affair:—

DESPATCH FROM SIR E. LYONS.

ADMIRALTY, March 19.

A despatch, of which the following is a copy, has been received from Rear-Admiral Sir E. Lyons, Bart., G.C.B., Commander-in-Chief of her Majesty's ships and vessels in the Mediterranean and Black Sea:—

PROCEEDINGS AT KERTCH.

Royal Albert, off Sebastopol, Feb. 27.

Sir,—With reference to my letter of the 20th instant, reporting the highly creditable proceedings of the blockading squadron off Kertch, under the command of Captain Giffard, of her Majesty's ship *Leopard*, I have now the honour to enclose copies of two letters which I have received from that active and intelligent officer, reporting his further proceedings, and of his having, in conjunction with his Imperial Majesty's steamer *Fulton*, captured and destroyed ten 50 cwt. 6-inch guns, and burnt seven large boats, two ranges of barrack-buildings, also a quantity of military stores and provisions, near the Boghaz of the Kouban Lake, on the 22nd inst. and I beg leave to call their Lordships' particular attention to the fact that this gallant service was performed during weather which must have rendered its accomplishment exceedingly difficult, and that Vice-Admiral Bruat and I consider that it reflects the highest credit on Captain Giffard, Captain Le Bris, of the *Fulton*, and the officers and men of both nations employed on the occasion.

The enemy appears to have lost a considerable number of men on the occasion, whereas no casualties have occurred on our side.

I am, &c.

Ed. LYONS, Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.
To the Secretary of the Admiralty, London.

Her Majesty's steam-frigate *Leopard*, off Kertch,
February 25, 1855.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that on the 22nd inst. his Imperial French Majesty's ship *Fulton* having gone to Kaffa to reconnoitre, I proceeded towards Anapa in her Majesty's ship *Leopard*; but, on passing the Boghaz of the Kouban Lake, we observed numbers of troops crossing the passage in boats; from Anapa to Taman, so I ran in and anchored off the passage in 4½ fathoms.

The troops had landed, but we opened fire on them, and drove them to the hills.

I sent a division of boats, under Lieutenant Graham, to examine the buildings on the points, which proved to be guard-houses, barracks, store-houses, and stables, some of which were burnt; but, a heavy snowstorm coming on, I recalled the boats.

Lieutenant Graham reporting he had seen some guns and other military stores, which he had not time to destroy, and which the enemy were transporting from Anapa to Kertch, I again proceeded there on the 24th inst. in company with the *Fulton*.

A few rounds of shot and shell drove the Cossacks and other troops, 400 or 500 in number, to the hills; when the boats under Lieutenant Graham landed, and Monsieur Le Bris, in the *Fulton*, took up a position to the north-west, to check the advance of the enemy, who soon after brought some field batteries on the hills and opened a heavy fire of shot and shell upon the ships and boats.

The very accurate fire of the *Fulton* drove them from two positions, and the *Leopard*'s shell from a third, after which they retreated behind the hills.

After three hours' work the boats returned, having captured and destroyed ten new and handsome 50 cwt. 6-inch guns, and burnt seven large boats, two ranges of barracks and buildings, also a quantity of military stores and provisions.

The *Fulton* received one shot in her hull, but I am happy to say no casualties occurred.

The loss of the enemy must have been considerable. I have, &c.

(Signed)

GEORGE GIFFARD, Captain.

Rear Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons, Bart., G.C.B., &c.

HEALTH OF THE ARMY OF THE EAST.

WAR DEPARTMENT, March 20, 1855.

Extract from a Despatch received by Lord Panmure from Field-Marshal the Lord Raglan, dated "Before Sebastopol," March 3rd, 1855.

I beg now to lay before your Lordship Dr. Hall's report of the state of the sick; and I will direct him to make one weekly, which I will transmit for your Lordship's information.

Extract from a Report from Dr. Hall, Inspector-General of Hospitals, to Field-Marshal Lord Raglan, dated March 2nd, 1855.

I will offer a few observations on the weekly state up to the 24th of February; and, in doing so, I may premise that the result of the sanitary condition of the army up to that period is by no means so satisfactory as the previous improvement during the week of fine weather that we had had led me to anticipate; but though the unfavourable change in the weather, from the genial warmth of spring to the bitter cold of winter, which took place on the 20th, had an injurious effect on certain classes of disease in weakly subjects, still there is sufficient improvement remaining to enable us to look forward with confident hope to the future; and I am the more inclined to indulge this hope from the favourable change which has taken place in the type of fever prevailing in the General Hospital at Balaklava, in the 93rd Highlanders and some other regiments, from low typhoid to that of a remittent, and even intermittent, form.

This afternoon 100 patients were to be removed from the General Hospital at Balaklava to the convalescent establishment on the plateau of the old castle, overlooking the sea; and when the remainder of the huts are erected—which I expect they will soon be now—I look for the happiest results to follow, from being able to place from 400 to 500 convalescents there, in place of sending them down to the crowded establishment at Scutari. In case of our having wounded men, I should wish of all things to keep them in so desirable a locality; and, by a very little labour, the road up to the huts from the town could easily be made practicable for ambulance mules; and this, I am informed, the Commanding Royal Engineer has been ordered to carry into immediate effect.

The position of the huts, I think, promises every advantage: they are placed on a dry ridge overlooking the sea, sufficiently removed from the noise and stench of the town, and not too far from our stores and resources.

There is a running stream in a ravine close at hand, of easy access, and fed by a spring higher up in the hills, which could easily be led to the huts themselves by means of gutta-percha tubing.

Out of 442 patients treated in the General Hospital at Balaklava between the 18th and 24th of February, only three casualties have occurred; which, I think, may fairly be termed a low rate of mortality, considering the class of patients that are generally sent in there for treatment—men brought down from Camp, and found too ill to embark when they arrive at Balaklava.

The huts in the vineyard in front of the hospital have relieved the hospital, and prevented the necessity of crowding it so much as we were formerly occasionally compelled to do.

The ventilation, too, of the main building has been improved, by boring two rows of large auger holes through the wooden ceiling of the wards. Mr. Hanbury and the medical officers doing duty under him are very attentive to their patients. The sick have also the benefit of the care of Miss Langston and the nurses under her, who are a great comfort to them; and I am glad to be able to assure your Lordship, that the state of the purveyor's store is such as to ensure every comfort the sick can require.

The Cavalry division, encamped in a sheltered valley near Kadikoi, has enjoyed better health of late; and the mortality this week, though high, as compared with service at home, still cannot be considered excessive; but, with the increased comforts the men now enjoy, and their exemption from night duty, further improvement may be expected. The Artillery has also enjoyed good health; so has the Highland Brigade which occupies the lines in front of Balaklava, part of which are elevated, and much exposed. But being near Balaklava, they have exerted themselves, and got wooden huts up for the accommodation of both the sick and a portion of the men in health. They have had the advantage of house shelter for their sick, in the village of Kadikoi, during the whole winter. The men are warmly clad, and have the additional benefit of being nearer their resources than the men in front. The 2nd, 4th, and Light Divisions have improved in health, but the 3rd, and the Brigade of Guards, continue sickly.

The Guards have just been removed to Balaklava, where rest and better shelter will, I have no doubt, soon have a beneficial effect on their health.

The Third Division, too, will be relieved in some degree by the 39th Regiment, just sent up to join it. The 39th has lately arrived, and is quite efficient. Huts have been erected for them on an eligible site, and they have a fair chance of escaping any serious outbreak of disease.

Bowel complaints continue to be the most prevalent class of diseases; but I think they are not so serious as they were a short time ago, nor is scurvy so manifest as it was since the issue of lime-juice daily as a portion of the men's rations. Lately, I have instructed the medical officers of regiments to inspect the men, for the purpose of detecting this complaint—skin diseases—and seeing that the men are clean in their persons, and change their shirts and flannels at stated periods. The last weekly report is favourable. In the Fourth Division, which is the only report I have at hand in my hut, only 138 out of 2596 men inspected, bore any traces of scurvy; and this is one of the divisions which was as much or more affected with it than any division in the army a short time ago. Mr. Roberts, the Staff-Surgeon recently appointed to superintend the medical concerns of the division, is an intelligent, active and zealous officer, and he has effected wonderful reforms since he joined. If the issue of fresh meat could be ensured, together with vegetables and lime-juice, I am quite satisfied, now that the men are warmly clad, and will soon be better sheltered, a manifest improvement would take place in their health. And if the military operations carrying on would only admit of some longer exemption from duty, a still greater improvement would be observed.

I am inclined to think our greatest difficulties and miseries have been surmounted, and we may now look forward for better and more cheering times. It was wonderful to see the cheering effect the few fine days had on the health and spirits of the men; and as the winter may now be considered nearly at an end, I am full of hope and confidence.

PRINCE ALBERT'S VISIT TO PORTSMOUTH.—Prince Albert proceeded from Osborne House to Portsmouth on a visit of inspection of the new Royal yacht and of the Sailors' Home, on Monday. The visit was a private one. The Prince first went to the yacht; on board of which he remained upwards of an hour, going over the whole of the interior of the vessel, and examining its various arrangements, and directing some alterations for the greater convenience of the crew to be made. On leaving the yacht the Prince proceeded to the Sailors' Home in Queen-street, adjoining the dockyard, where he minutely examined the accounts of the institution. He then went to the Commander-in-Chief's residence, and most kindly inquired after the health of Sir Thomas Troubridge—who, it will be remembered, was severely wounded at Inkerman, and who is a relative and guest of the gallant Admiral at the present time. The *Fairy*, with the Queen on board, came straight into the harbour, and his Royal Highness at once went off to her, and returned to Osborne at half-past one o'clock. By orders of the Queen the fleet did not salute on her arrival, but this order not being repeated when she returned, the ships in harbour and at Spithead poured forth a magnificent salute.

BREAD WITHOUT YEAST FOR THE ARMY.—Before the recent changes in the Administration, Mr. Alfred Bird, chemist, Birmingham, communicated with the Duke of Newcastle, as head of the War Department, offering to supply the troops in the East with his baking and fermenting powder, which would admit of their being regularly supplied with fresh bread, as well as prove invaluable in the hospitals for the supply of the sick and wounded with bread, light cakes, light puddings, and other articles of food suited to their condition. His Grace, in reply, desired that a loaf made with the fermenting powder should be sent to him, and requested that the loaf might be made in the presence of the authorities in Birmingham, from whom a certificate was to be sent stating that the bread was made without yeast. The Mayor was accordingly applied to, and witnessed the making of fourteen pounds, or one peck of flour, with the powder and a little salt, into five loaves, the operation requiring not more than four minutes and a half. After being baked they were found to weigh 20 lbs. 2 ozs. One of the loaves was stamped with the corporate seal, and forwarded to the Duke of Newcastle, together with a certificate from the Mayor of Birmingham as to the mode of its production; and another from Dr. Evans, to the effect that he had on several occasions partaken of bread made with Mr. Bird's powder, and that the bread was light and good; the doctor, moreover, expressing his belief that the powder was a good substitute for yeast. In due course his Grace acknowledged the receipt of the bread, which he pronounced to be sweet and good; and, in order that the powder might receive a further trial, desired Mr. Bird to communicate with the Lords of the Admiralty, who supply the Army from the victualling yards. Their Lordships replied by requesting that a loaf, as a specimen of the bread, might be sent to them; on receipt of which they admitted the bread to be wholesome, sweet, and palatable. The result is that Mr. Bird has received a communication from Lord Panmure, the present Minister of War, announcing that the Government intend to give the fermenting powder a thorough trial at the camp of instruction at Aldershot, with a view to its introduction into the Army and military hospitals abroad.

THE LATE CZAR.—In the course of those memorable conversations which he held with Sir Hamilton Seymour between January and April, 1853, a part of which have been published, the British diplomatist observed, "If a war between Russia and Turkey should unfortunately break out, neither your Majesty nor I would probably live to see it terminated." The Emperor asked Sir Hamilton how old he was, and on his replying "Fifty-five," said—"Then I am certainly older than you, but still I cannot agree to that surmise."

A TRUFFLE-HUNTER.—Died, on the 7th March, in the Epsom Union Workhouse, in his eighty-second year, Nathaniel Payne, the last of the truffle-hunters, formerly of Rammore Common, Little Bookham. The deceased was well known to many of the gentry in the county of Surrey.

SEBASTOPOL AND VIENNA.

Is Sebastopol to fall? That is the question which is now anxiously asked and discussed on all hands. The problem is no longer a mere question of time—a calculation of weeks and days, as heretofore; but of the feasibility of the undertaking. If men's minds were too sanguine at the outset of this expedition, if they under-rated the enemy's strength and over-estimated the possible fruits of brilliant achievement, we think it cannot be denied that a more than corresponding reaction has since taken place, and that, worn out with daily watching and expecting, there are many who have given up "the siege" as a failure. There can be no doubt that the plan of operations with which the work was commenced was a mistake, and that no possibility existed at any after the mistake was found out of retrieving the first false step. But does it follow at all from this that Sebastopol is not to be taken? We will not admit the deduction. Sebastopol has not fallen, because it has not as yet been attacked with adequate means and in the only proper manner. It was thought, in the first instance, to take the place by a *coup de main*; then it was attempted to knock its casemated batteries down by sheer pounding; but both these expectations have been disappointed, and the balance between the attack and defence, contrary to precedent and to general expectation, turns, for the present at least, in favour of the latter. The most perplexing feature in the case is, that all the time our artillery has been powerless to destroy the works we came to attack, the besieged, having apparently unlimited resources at their command, have been throwing up additional fortifications, external and internal, themselves sufficiently formidable to call for regular works of siege for their reduction; so that, under the supposition of our still adhering to the project of taking the place by main force, we must (under the existing conditions) look to taking it piecemeal—bit by bit—with a severe struggle at each stage of the proceedings. The truth we believe to be that, under the present plan of operations, even if we should succeed in mastering the outworks of recent construction, and in making our way, at the bayonet's point, within part of the enceinte itself, we would not be able to maintain our position there, there being no important portion of the works which is not effectually commanded by others. The boldest general would hesitate long before he would lead his troops to almost certain destruction in such a venture.

Is, then, Sebastopol *not* to fall? the reader will ask, casting away the paper from him with disappointment, and almost a feeling of disgust. Our answer is prompt. Sebastopol; properly invested, *must* fall in time, even if it were a mass of cast iron. Hitherto it has not been invested; it has been open, throughout one-half of its boundary, to receive reinforcements and stores of all kinds in greater abundance and with greater facilities than the besiegers. It has hitherto suffered none of the ordinary trials of a siege efficiently conducted. When this pressure—the pressure of a hermetic cordon—is placed around it, its strength must wane, its insolent front quail, its iron ribs collapse; but this must be the work of time, more or less in duration according to the extent of the resources within the place at the time its isolation commences.

The instances are numerous illustrating the importance of the blockading process. Three, however, will suffice as examples, and they are all of seaport places, otherwise considered unassailable. Gibraltar stood a siege of nearly four years' duration. The attack being defeated by the valour and intrepidity of the defenders, the active siege was converted into a blockade; timely succour, however, was thrown in—partly in consequence of the negligence of the commanders of the enemy's fleet; and before the issue of armed resources could be decided, the siege was stopped by the treaty of Paris. Malta is more to the point: here the blockade was strictly maintained for a period of two years; and, after gallant resistance, in the midst of terrible privations—the last attempt at relieving the place having failed—the garrison was at length forced to capitulate to the British flag. The case of Rochelle is still more remarkable, as an example of the extraordinary resources to which the assailants had recourse in order to complete the investment of the place, and the success which rewarded their labours. Entirely shut in by land, the garrison had for four or five months continued to receive succours by sea, and, so sustained, defied the besiegers. Richelieu, in order effectually to meet this difficulty, caused a mole to be constructed across the mouth of the harbour; and, at the end of ten months the brave Rochellois were starved into submission. Why should not similar means be tried with Sebastopol? By sea it is already blockaded; by land also on the south and east. All that remains to be done is to shut it in on the north, with Eupatoria as a base, either by regular works of countervallation, or by means of an army of observation, extending to Simpheropol or Perekop. Indeed, these dispositions having been made on the part of the besiegers, and the sunken ships, which at present obstruct the mouth of the harbour, being blown up and removed, it might even be on the cards to take the place by force, by a combined operation on all sides, by sea and land. Sooner, or later, however, it must fall, and with it the whole of the Crimea and of Russian power in the Black Sea.

These considerations should not be lost sight of, and are now doubly important in connection with sinister suggestions which have been put afloat of a possibility of the present political difficulty being got over, and peace established, without the capture or cession of Sebastopol as a *sine qua non*. These suggestions, if report be true, emanate from the Court of Vienna, and are to be matured, or at least made the subject of discussion, at the pending Conferences. It is at Vienna, then, and not at Sebastopol, that, according to these writers, the Eastern question is to be solved, and the power of Russia upon the Black Sea reduced within limits consistent with the quiet of the rest of Europe. We, however, cannot concur in these expectations; and we also feel satisfied that neither the Government nor the people in this country or in France would consent, after all that the war has cost, in money, in blood, and in suffering, to patch up not a peace, but a precarious truce, by any such miserable arrangement as that shadowed forth by the Vienna politicians.

The grounds upon which these views are urged are as untenable as the alternative policy proposed would be mischievous and suicidal. It is considered too much to demand of the Czar to surrender and destroy his favourite stronghold which the Allied armies have hitherto been unable to take. But Sebastopol may and will be taken if the siege be properly carried on; and, as to the pride of the matter, we would ask, whose feelings ought to be deferred to?—those of the wrongdoer, who has caused all these troubles, or those of the powerful States who have gone to the expense and hazard of enormous armaments to reduce the pride and power of that wrongdoer?

But the demand for the reduction of Sebastopol under the now admitted policy of opening the Black Sea, comes almost as a matter of course, and without the slightest implication of offence to Russia; being strictly accordant with the principles of public law, and supported by numerous precedents. Dunkirk is an example of the dismantling of a fortress at the demand of a neighbouring State, which the proud French nation submitted to, by the treaty of 1713; and which arrangement continued in force until abandoned by consent of England, in the treaty of 1763. As to the alternative proposed by the Vienna politicians, of the Maritime Powers erecting fortresses or establishing military posts on the southern coast of the Euxine—as at Batoum, Trebizond, Sinope, &c.—it is too absurd to be seriously entertained for a single moment. Instead of peace, this would establish a state of perpetual war; and make the sword, instead of the diplomacy and consent of nations, the public law of Europe. No; whatever it cost, Sebastopol must be taken, or surrendered; and the Conferences at Vienna must start upon no other basis.

O.

THE GRAVES OF THE HEROES AT SCUTARI.

THE spot represented in the Sketch on page 288 is recommended by the peculiar interest which attaches to it as the burial-place of many of England's bravest sons. There sleep not a few of the heroes of the Alma, of Inkerman, and of Balaklava; and side by side with them those less-known, but not less-deserving men, who, having endured with a patience never surpassed privations and pining sickness in the discharge of their duty to their Sovereign and their country, at length escaped to that place where "the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest." It was after attending the funeral of one in whose last moments were portrayed by every act and every word all the fortitude of a soldier, the humility of a Christian, and the courtesy of a gentleman, that the accompanying Sketch was taken. On the evening in question, the sun was setting behind the distant islands of the marble sea, which reflected his last long line of glory towards the resting-place of our beloved countrymen. One of these graves, on the edge of the cliff overhanging the Sea of Mamora, is the resting-place of Lieut-Col. Ainslie, of the 21st Fusiliers; it is marked by a small wooden cross, on which are cut the name and rank of the officer.

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D'ALMAINE and CO.'S Unique Royal Pianofortes, in Rose-
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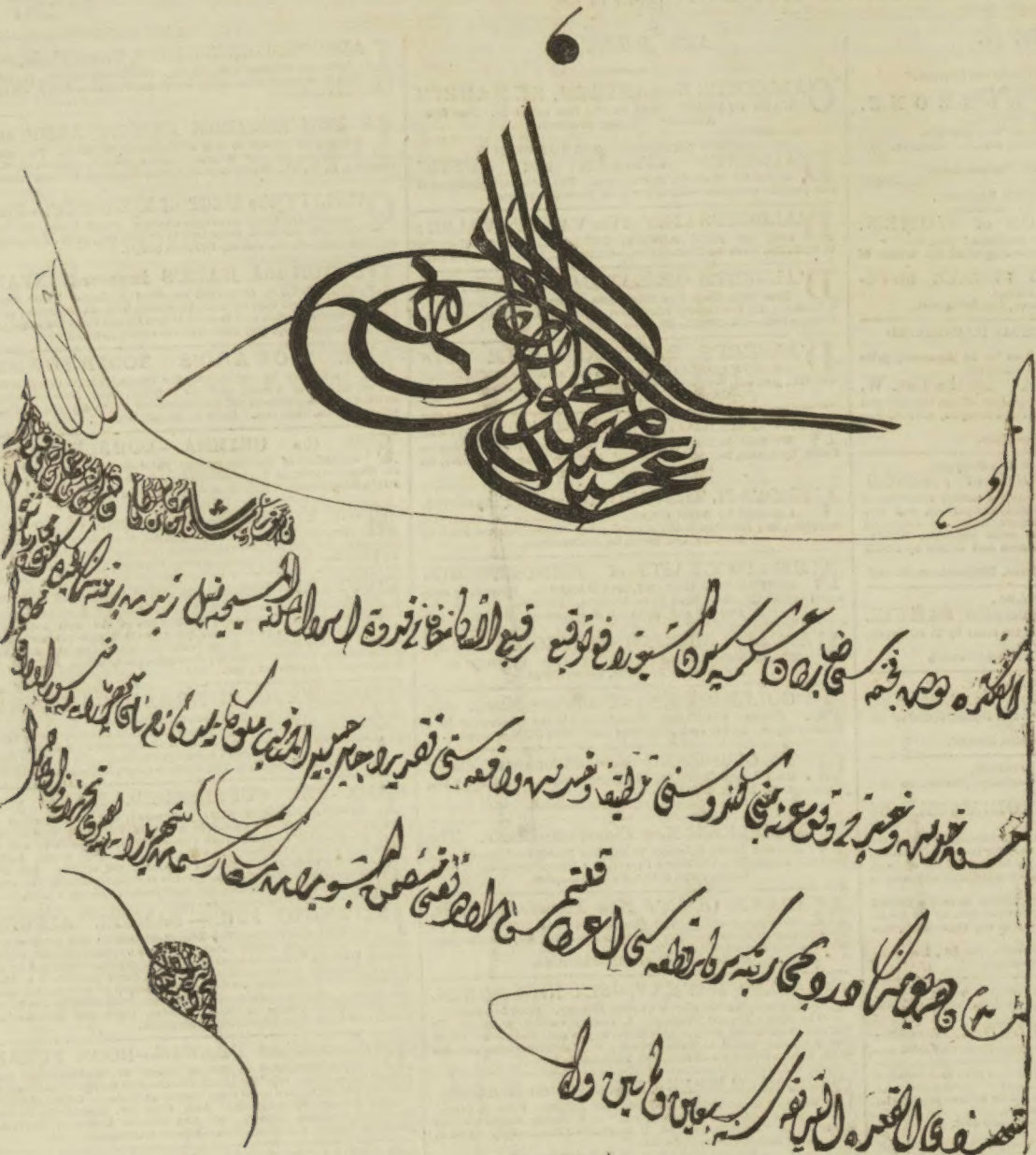
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SCUTARI.—Benevolent individuals are respect-
fully informed that HIMMEL'S VINEGAR has been ordered
to be sent to Miss Nightingale, for the use of the sick soldiers at
Scutari, as the best means of purifying the air and preventing in-
fection. It is to be had from all Perfumers and Chemists, and from
the Inventor, E. HIMMEL, 39, Gerrard-street, Soho. In Bond, for
Shipping, at a reduced price.

ECONOMIC FUNERAL COMPANY,
28, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars.
The resources of this Company enable them to conduct Funerals on
all classes with strict economy in the most satisfactory manner.
Estimates upon application.
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T



FIRMAN SENT BY THE SULTAN TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE LIEUTENANT MEYNELL.

THE LATE LIEUT. MEYNELL, OF HER MAJESTY'S 75TH FOOT.

THE career of this gallant officer, and the recognition of his bravery at Silistria by the Sultan, form a deeply interesting episode of the war. Lieutenant William Meynell, of her Majesty's 75th Foot, was the fifth son of Godfrey Meynell, Esq., of Langley-park, Derbyshire. This officer, in the month of May, 1844, received a certificate of honourable distinction and special approbation of the Commissioners of the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and was presented at the same time with a commission as Ensign of the 75th Regiment. In the year 1849 he accompanied his regiment to India, where he continued till the spring of 1853,

when he returned to England on sick leave. Having recovered his health before the expiration of his leave, he solicited, but ineffectually, from the Horse Guards, an appointment with the forces about to proceed to the East. Notwithstanding his disappointment he determined to proceed to the East, hoping to obtain some appointment on the staff of General Cannon (Behran Pacha) during the remaining portion of his leave. In this he succeeded, being appointed Assistant Aide-de-Camp to the General, and was present in the operations in the Delhi-Ormand Forest; entered Silistria with General Cannon on the 12th of June, 1854; was present in Arab Tabia when the last attack was made by the Russians, and was by the side of the gallant Captain Butler when he received his mortal wound. Upon the retreat of the Russians he accompanied General Cannon

in the reconnaissance made by that officer at Turtukai. On the 7th of July, under the command of Colonel Balfour Ogilvie (Youer Bey) he crossed the Danube, and with a small part of the force, in conjunction with Captain Arnold and Lieutenant Burke, R.E., took possession of two Russian redoubts in a position a mile and a half higher up the river than where the main body landed. These redoubts were held by them against a very superior force for more than two hours; and, when the Turks were eventually driven out of them, the bodies of Lieutenant Meynell and Captain Arnold were found the following day lying within the redoubts they had so bravely defended.



THE LATE LIEUTENANT MEYNELL.

The Sultan marked his high sense of the bravery of Lieutenant Meynell by conferring the order of the Medjidie, together with the accompanying firman, which were forwarded by Lord Raglan to the relatives of the deceased. We have engraved in facsimile the firman, of which the following is the translation:—

The bearer of this Imperial diploma, one of the most distinguished of the nation of the Messiah, Mr. Meynell, an officer in the British army, has rendered important services, and given proofs of zeal and devotedness, at the time of the siege of Silistria. Therefore, appreciating his services, and wishing to give him a mark of my Imperial satisfaction, I have granted him the 4th class of my order of Medjidie, which bears my Imperial name; and it is to this effect that this Imperial diploma has been delivered.

Written in the month of Zil Kaadi, in the year of the Hegira 1270.

The following is the letter of Lord Raglan:—

Before Sebastopol, December 25, 1854. Sir,—Her Majesty's Government having authorised me to deliver to the officers upon whom Omer Pacha had announced that the distinction had been conferred, the decoration of the Order of the Medjidie, it becomes my duty, as your son has unfortunately fallen, to transmit the same to you as a memorial of his distinguished services, and a recognition of them by the Ottoman Government. I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

RAGLAN.

We understand that a Tablet is about to be erected to the memory of Lieutenant Meynell in the parish church of Langley, in the county of Derby, by the Colonel and officers of her Majesty's 75th Regiment, now serving at Peshawur, in India, with the following inscription:—

The Lieutenant-Colonel and officers of H.M. 75th Regiment, to their late comrade and brother officer, WILLIAM MEYNELL, Senior Lieutenant, who, a volunteer, on leave from his regiment in India, fell gloriously at Giurgevo, on the Danube, the 7th day of July, 1854, aged 28, whilst gallantly leading a party of Turks against the Russians. This Tablet is erected as a mark of their affectionate regard and esteem, and of the deep regret they felt at his untimely but glorious fate.



GRAVES AT SCUTARI.—(SEE PAGE 286.)